

Steering Committee April 14, 2020 Meeting Summary

Attendance

Voting Steering Committee Members

Present (via Zoom): Jack Billi, Norman Herbert, Jeremy Lapedis, Brent Williams, Trish Cortes, Alfreda Rooks, George Waddles, Scott Menzel, Nancy Graeber

Phone: Ginny Creasman, Pam Smith, Brittanie Baughman

Absent: Julie Aronica, Tony Denton, Greg Dill, Krista Girty, Mark Hausman, Jimena Loveluck, Bill Manns, Sharon Moore, Doug Strong, Rosalie Tocco-Bradley, Marti Walsh, Katrina Bozada, Leah Corneail, Kim Hulbert, Juan Marquez, Sara Szcoztko, Curtis Thornton, Elisabeth Vanderpool

Ex Officio Steering Committee Members Present (via Zoom): Connie Conklin (phone), Marianne Udow-Phillips, Liz Conlin, Joanne Grosh, Doug Weaver, Paul Valenstein

CHRT staff (via Zoom): Ryan Bartholomew, Matt Hill (phone), Elizabeth Jahn, Erica Matti, Nancy Baum, Sam Iovan, Deana Smith, Gregory Powers, Deidre Hurse, Karin Teske, Erin Spanier, Jenna Combs

Key Summary Points

- **Approval of past meeting notes:** revised March items to reflect special COVID-19 Pandemic response (as of 4/6/2020)
- **Updates: CHRT's work with the State – Marianne Udow-Phillips**
 - The State has reached out to outside organizations in order to better understand the response to and best practices to combat the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Partnership with the Ford Public Policy school and the Poverty Solutions Center,
 - reviewed best practices on how to maintain the safety for homeless and congregated populations
 - reviewed possible funding analysis that is now being shared throughout the state
 - reviewed the FEMA and CARE's legislation as well as CMS's regulatory changes
 - CHRT has prepared written materials regarding best practices to keep the homeless population safe in Washtenaw County, that information along with funding opportunities is now published on the Michigan Association of Counties website <https://micounties.org/wp-content/uploads/Tips-for-Sheltering-Homeless-Population-During-Corona-Crisis.pdf>
 - Poverty Solutions Center has been working with the Governor and the Department of Health and Human Services in order to expand programs so that individuals in poverty can get better access to food assistance and financial assistance
 - On the Poverty Solution Center website, there is a toolkit database containing information about a variety of different resources (special programs, food assistance, etc.)
 - CHRT has also gathered information in an easy to read guide that contains information on resources available during the COVID-19 crisis

- **Solution/Best Practice Sharing:**
 - The Health Dept. website has put together a list of social services that are open and available
 - The Washtenaw County government is coordinating a list through the Office of Community and Economic Development (OCED) to place large orders for nonprofits of cleaning supplies and other supplies, through other government connections
 - Volunteer Washtenaw on the United Way website allows non-profit agencies to list needs that they have
 - Directory of directories posted on WHI website (includes poverty solutions, OCED, etc.) that is frequently updated
 - Concerns regarding information available on social isolation and how to reduce the impact of social distancing restrictions; social service organizations that serve older adults are conducting phone reassurance calls in order to address concerns that individuals might have during social isolation
 - The Governor has put in place a 'warm line' a call line for individuals that are struggling with mental health issues to get in contact with an experienced peer who is familiar with mental illness. This service is available 7 days a week, from 10 am – 2 am.
 - The CMH has been able to assist in allocating funds towards housing of the homeless population with the decline of shelters, but available residential support for COVID positive individuals is a challenge.
 - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of food banks have closed down, but food banks that have remained operational are struggling to keep shelves stocked, some pantries have had to stop running due to loss of staff/volunteers or lack of additional PPE supplies due to low stock.
 - Information regarding COVID-19 testing is really critical. St.Joe's is conducting drive-in screenings/testing 7 days a week, 8 am – 5 pm and you do not need a provider referral.
 - Providing information about COVID-19 and the extended resources to government/elected officials who can also share information via public forums/ video conferences is another avenue for disseminating information.
- **Gaps/What can WHI assist with?**
 - One of the needs is collecting all the information that has been shared, in one place or one format.
 - We can create a "FAQ" style document that categorizes all the available resources.
- **Next Steps: May 18th Stakeholders Meeting (Tentative)**
 - We will make a decision on whether or not to hold the meeting as it gets closer to May and once we know about when the shelter in place restrictions will be lifted.

Action Items

- **Communications Workgroup** will review the existing "directory of directories" that has been developed to categorize the information in a more useable format for targeted information.

Next Meeting Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:00 –11:00 AM
