



Meeting Notes - COVID-19 Regional Response Team (RRT) Call #5

Thursday, April 16th 2020

3:00-4:00 pm

Facilitated by:

Jason Purnell, Washington University in St. Louis

Rebecca Bennett, Emerging Wisdom LLC

WELCOME – JASON PURNELL

Jason opened the meeting by framing today's conversation based on all the things we have learned as a group to date. He reinforced that his team has listened, observed, and participated, and that we have heard you and are pivoting our orientation toward action and not a prolonged conversation around structure.

Campaigns will be how we structure the work going forward. Active campaigns will be discussed on this agenda. Strike teams will be formed, resources will be marshalled, and solutions will be implemented accordingly. This will keep us fluid and responsive in real time, rather than organizing ourselves by cluster.

The RRT Coordinating Team is mindful of the criteria that the strike teams need to be impactful, efficient, and not duplicate work.

The data that you all collected will continue to guide our thinking and inform our work. We have about 80 new rows of data based on additional information collected by participating agencies and direct responses to our survey. This will be useful for funders, the general public and hopefully can help move solutions forward. The survey link remains open and is at the bottom of this document.

Going forward, our work will move along two tracks. Our strike teams will respond to critical conditions that require immediate, coordinated action. They will work with agencies, service providers, municipal decision-makers, funders, and disaster experts to conduct time-bound campaigns. They will also engage community leaders and front-line providers in assessing trends that are emergent and require strategic action in the intermediate term – one, two and six months from now.

CAMPAIGNS – REBECCA BENNETT

Rebecca: Campaigns will be led by strike teams.

HOMEBOUND OLDER ADULTS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES is managed by Stacey Easterling and Grace Kyung.

1. Lead agencies are Catholic Charities and The Salvation Army, which are using 2-1-1 as a hub/spoke that has navigators in place to help ensure the delivery of basic needs. The steps are described below.
 - a. Needs are identified and fed into 2-1-1
 - b. Navigator screens clients
 - c. Navigator matches clients with agencies to meet service needs
 - d. Navigator confirms with clients that their needs were met, and closes the loop.
2. LaKeysha Fields, The Salvation Army: The structure will stand regardless of who the end-user (client) is in this setting. Clients may contact 211 directly, or agencies can align their intake process with what data 211 is collecting. Daily groups of cases will be designated to different service agencies. The team is working on partnership agreements and finalizing an intake form.
3. Tyrone Ford, Catholic Charities: Please use the system and update the tools as needed. We will keep working with agencies to refine and improve this system.
4. Rick Skinner, United Way: Slalom is donating time and energy to create a clearinghouse of information.
5. Regina Greer, United Way 2-1-1: UW is looking for processes that converge together in order to serve everyone in the best way possible.

SCHOOL/FOOD CAMPAIGN is managed by Katie Kaufmann.

1. Several action items have moved forward. EducationPlus conducted research around what schools are doing regarding their food provision. Operation Food Search created a flier that can be used at all distribution sites for this audience. School districts and early childhood centers have these documents in hand now. Safety and health practices are also key topics for this audience. E.G.: SLPS is now distributing food once per week as a way to minimize human contacts.
2. Trina Ragain, Operation Food Search. We have 10 drive-through distributions under the summer food service system. Our backpack program has transitioned to an emergency food pack going out to 2,500 partners per week. Little Bit Foundation has been added to the distribution team. We have identified 200 sites in IL and 600 sites in MO that are part of our solution system. Urban League and Beyond Housing events are also being supported.
3. Nicole Hawkins, St. Louis Area Foodbank is working in 13 local school districts. We are standing up mobile markets with a drive-through model. This is roughly ½ of a semi tractor-trailer. Roughly 3,000 disaster relief boxes are being distributed around the region; seven days' worth of food. She listed school districts and solutions in place around the region.

UNHOUSED CAMPAIGN is managed by Grace Kyung, Monique Thomas, and Doneisha Bohannon.

1. This campaign is working to ensure the delivery of medical and behavioral health screenings and supports to unhoused community members in encampments, shelters and quarantine / isolation units.
2. Dr. Laurie Punch has provided medical support at encampments and has developed a plan for expanding these services.
3. Dr. Yusef Scoggin, Director of the Office of Family and Community Services for St. Louis County's Department of Human Services, talked about the efforts of SLARCH and the Continuum of Care from Illinois through St. Charles. The unhoused/unsheltered are defined as those who cannot 'stay home' because they have no permanent residence. Providers are studying capacity at shelters to help meet the stay at home orders in our states. Distancing is a

challenge to maintaining capacity. Efforts are underway to increase beds / capacity through the use of hotel/motel vouchers. Quarantine for those pending results and isolation for those positive cases also requires coordinated efforts to eliminate the virus' spread. Providers have identified gaps and are pursuing local funding to fill these gaps.

4. Mary Quandt, Behavioral Health Network. Weekly convenings with 14 area hospital leaders are ongoing. BHN is coordinating partnerships, grant applications, etc. around behavioral health supports. Melissa Benson with BHN is working with our most critically ill community members to create capacity resources. If you want to update your contact information with Melissa, please email her mbenson@bhnstl.org. BHN's research has been submitted to Karishma.
5. Tammy Laws, Gateway Housing First and Continuum of Care. There is a need for places where people can go that are safe and where there is PPE. Efforts are underway to secure additional shelter options given the thinning capacity of current shelters. There is also work on communication strategies and technical assistance for our partners – a one-stop guide for how to rework operations during this time of crisis. Guide can be shared.

LEARNING & TECHNOLOGY

1. Kristen Sorth, St. Louis County Library. The library system is partnering with the Nine Network on linking learning objectives with content. Reducing summer learning loss is an area of uncharted territory where the group is bravely stepping forward. There is not great news on hotspot growth for Wi-Fi access. The Library Foundation purchased pads for elementary kids at the PreK-gr3 level in two districts. From April 27 – July, Nine Network will be broadcasting math and reading instruction daily for children in grades K-1 and 2-4.

STRUCTURE: CAMPAIGNS – REBECCA BENNETT

The RRT Coordination Team is focusing on solutions and resources. We have created a document to help us identify, prioritize, and act upon solutions quickly. You can find it on our new C19RRT.org website under the "GET ENGAGED" tab. Rebecca encouraged members to be brief yet thorough in their responses.

Projects recommended through the solutioning document will be vetted by the Coordination Team with a commitment to act on efforts that are urgent, impactful, scalable, do not duplicate the work of others, and can be effectively resourced.

COMMUNICATIONS – KELLY FERRARA

Kelly reviewed a brief PowerPoint deck highlighting the project's communication goals as maintaining relevant, informative, and engaging content.

The new website is C19RRT.org. Please visit and come back. The frame of the website is up and running with the ability to sign up for the email updates and to complete the Solutioning Together document. These are the first features activated. One goal for the website includes the development of a 24/7 Ideas Wall where threaded conversations can take place around any number of crowdsourced ways to solve pressing virus-related problems. More will be shared on this going forward.

Email updates will continue. If you are not receiving the emails, please “whitelist” Kelly@StratCommRx.com in your spam filter. Because we are sending to multiple people at once, some servers will delay or prevent emails sent to more than a handful of people at one time.

RESEARCH

The RRT survey link can be found [here](#).

The updated RRT research summary can be found [here](#).

CONCLUSION – JASON PURNELL

Jason thanked everyone on the call for their dedication both in and out of the RRT to serve our regional neighbors.

ADJOURN