



Meeting Notes - COVID-19 Regional Response Team (RRT) Call #7

Thursday, April 30th 2020

3:00-4:00 pm

Facilitated by:

Jason Purnell, Washington University in St. Louis

Rebecca Bennett, Emerging Wisdom LLC

WELCOME – JASON PURNELL

Jason welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the meeting, saying that we would update on active campaigns, a brief overview of the CARES Act and what we understand about it at this point, and some updates on tools and new work that is being done.

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

1. Unhoused

Grace Kyung reported that encampment disbandment along Market street would be occurring the following morning. They are working to understand implications and impact this will have and how to help those displaced with a trauma-informed lens. They continue to work with the Continuum of Care and the City so the unhoused are not at risk for increased trauma. They are continuing to develop plans with behavioral health support and medical providers. They have been working on some screening tools with Dr. Lutey and Dr. Punch and the next step will be sharing with a focus group. They will be receiving more info about behavioral health support and who has capacity to help in the next few days.

2. Homebound Elders and Individuals with Disabilities

Stacy Easterling provided the update for this campaign.

- They are beginning the implementation of the coordinated response to address basic needs early next week. Catholic Charities and The Salvation Army, along with the United Way 211 system, have designed this approach. They are using this week to fine tune the process and get providers ready.
 - Don Halpin wrote in the chat box that the CCSTL Call Center is ready. Training is complete; technology is installed (laptops/phones). They are dry-running the center today and tomorrow for final checks. Going live Monday May 4.
- The Rapid Response Fund that was discussed at last week's meeting approved 10 grant awards to organizations that will be providing food, medication, utility services, and personal care items to older adults and people with disabilities. The grantees will be having a call together the next day. The total amount awarded is approx. \$400,000.

- Rebecca reported that IHN's onboarding of Community Health Workers has been going really well. They had an excellent candidate pool which includes folks that speak six to eight languages overall.

3. Early childhood and education spaces

Katie Kaufmann provided this update.

- A group met earlier in the week to discuss food distribution. They are pivoting to think longer term about summer school and beyond, and there was some good idea generation.
- Paul Ziegler will be putting out a survey to school districts about their plan for food distribution through the current and next academic year.
- Many ECCs in our region are beginning to get itchy about reopening because of state orders on the Missouri side that could jeopardize funding if they don't reopen. In light of this, they are making sure centers have proper supplies for protecting staff and families if they do reopen. For the centers that remain closed, they are helping with access to capital so they can pay their ongoing bills until their orders to stay at home are lifted. Hopefully there will be new infusions of resources in the region soon.
- Katie wrote in the chat box that folks involved with or who care about Early Childhood Education are invited to join a listening session next week hosted by Kids Win MO and United for Children to help inform state level advocacy and local tactics. The meeting link is
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUqdu2pqT0uHdYVOBmssdkxujP_W_jodBNZ

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

Alex Rankin, Government Affairs Manager at MFH, provided an overview of the federal government's CARES Act. It is a two trillion dollar federal stimulus package that was passed in March in response to COVID-19. What's confusing is that some funding is coming through federal agencies to the state to distribute, and some is coming directly to community organizations, providers and local government. There are many buckets and the guidance is being sent down by the federal government, but at different times. The act includes direct payments to families and individuals and expanded unemployment benefits to about \$600 more per week. Billions have been given to small businesses, and most funding is depleted.

Information about funding to local governments and states included:

- Missouri received about \$2.3 billion through the bucket of funds called the Coronavirus Relief Fund, which is just one component of the CARES Act.

- This amount includes earmarked funds for localities with populations over 500,000, which only applies to Jackson County and St. Louis County.
 - The rest of the funding goes directly to the State of Missouri. The state legislature passed a supplemental budget that says of the amount Missouri receives, 25% has to go directly to counties. The amount to counties is based on population, not need. A CARES Act working group chaired by State Treasurer Scott Fitzpatrick met this week and came up with a form that the Executive of Counties has to sign to certify they understand what the funds are for, then set amounts for each county.
 - The City of St. Louis will be receiving \$35.26 million, St. Charles County will be receiving \$47.17 million, and St. Louis County will be receiving \$173.48 million.
- The CARES Act included tons of funding for public health resources. Most are going through the CDC and then into the state, and the State Department of Health is determining use of the funds. Right now they are not sending those funds to local public health agencies. Those agencies have to go to the County Executive or local Executive Branch to access that funding.
 - Missouri received \$208 million for education under the CARES Act for K-12 schools. The funds are sent through Title One allocations, so essentially directly to the schools. They can be used for things like accommodating long term closures, assisting with technology, mental health services, cleaning and sanitizing buildings, etc.
 - The Governor gave \$54.6 million to DESE for emergency support.
 - There were three large buckets for housing in the CARES Act:
 - The Community Development Block Grant
 - Missouri received \$13.6 million. The Department of Economic Development is trying to determine use of those funds. They are trying to decide if they should push out funds to the Regional Planning Commission for issuing grants.
 - The Emergency Solutions Grant
 - Missouri received \$19 million. Areas such as Kansas City, St. Louis City, and St. Louis County are entitled to receive certain amounts. Other areas will have access to funds through the non-entitlement process.
 - Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS
 - MO received \$720,000.

Alex provided a link with this info:

Link to amounts per county -

<https://treasurer.mo.gov/pdfnew/CoronavirusReliefFundAllocation.pdf>

She said she will make sure reports coming out will get to Jason and Rebeccah to share with the group.

Implications of the CARES Act for the Counties

St. Louis County: Deborah Patterson

\$173 million+ going to the county in three buckets: economic development, humanitarian, and compliance. The primary pieces are around the first two. An economic development advisory council was created. They would like to get connected to things already going on in the community since there is no need to recreate the wheel. There is a microsite on the County website related to COVID-19. They will be accepting grant applications for funding non-profits. They haven't figured out the requirements yet but are thinking about scalability and collaboration and making sure applicants have enough of a track record to have an impact. They will be reviewing requests on a weekly basis. They'll also be collecting data related to impact and what we fund is supported by data.

St. Clair County: Debra Moore

Through the Illinois Department of Health, East St. Louis will soon have an additional test site established at the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center. The soft opening is on Sunday and full operation on Monday, May 4th. It will be open from 9-5 daily with the expectation that 650 could be tested daily.

They have anticipated the dollars that will be received and have started a process to get them distributed as soon as possible. They are drastically expanding the services they normally provide to the County, helping with mortgages, insurance, utility bills, etc. They have established a department called The Inter-Governmental Grants Department, and its total role will be to disperse federal grant dollars. An application has been established and was sent to Grace Kyung which she can share. They are also all online. They are trying to reach the population that doesn't typically use these services, consciously targeting the population that is now unemployed or underemployed. They want people to realize that these services are available. They are also doing some delivery through their Emergency Management Agency and working with Call for Help to provide housing support. What they are *not* doing is dispersing dollars to organizations because they already have a structure in place and can put more money into hands of individuals in need this way.

They have also successfully gotten in touch with the Hispanic community of Fairmount City and are delivering services there.

The packet will be sent to the RRT in follow-up correspondence.

St. Charles County: Todd Barnes

He spoke to Enterprise Bank, which said that \$6.4 billion of PPP dollars were issued in Missouri, affecting 34,100 small businesses. Enterprise did two years of loans in 13 days, dispersing \$682 million in 1,550 loans. The CARES Act included that existing small business loans would have their payments made for the next six months. There is also the Emergency Injury Distribution Loan covered by a local St. Charles County business, which was \$1,000 per employee with a max of \$10,000.

70% of businesses in St. Charles County are open and operating in some form. Between the three counties of St. Charles, Lincoln, and Warren, there are over 10,500 businesses operating at different levels of capacity.

They have also been looking at the CDBH and ESG grants from the CARES Act.

Their Continuum of Care is focused on sheltering homeless and have sheltered 33 individuals who had some exposure to COVID-19. They are now looking at long-term effects of rent mortgages and rapid rehousing, as a wave will be coming where people will be in financial distress.

Other Updates

Grace Kyung told the team about an online resource called the **STL Response Page**, a dashboard led by UMSL as a central point to share COVID-19 info and resources that exist in the region. This regional resources guide was created with WEPOWER, St. Louis Mutual Aid, Arch City Defenders and other individuals that came forward. The site was launched yesterday. The link is <https://stlresponse.org/>. Grace said people should feel free to send feedback and thanked everyone on the call who helped create it.

Katie Kaufmann talked about how **United for Children** has made some grants for ECE providers who are struggling to keep their businesses alive. 26 centers applied and were awarded \$500 grants for basic needs, to pay rent, or pay support staff. 70 organizations applied this week. The funds won't cover all 70, but they are working to help who they can.

Doneisha Bohannon spoke about efforts for **reemployment**. They have recognized opportunities to convert professionals to service sectors. There are skills that are transferrable among these sectors in services. They also learned about the patient care tech program that St. Louis Community College is running to help people into entry level roles in healthcare. There are upcoming conversations with LaunchCode about needs and scaling up some of those approaches as well as engaging people and sectors that have been impacted heavily. The need to provide wraparound services has come up a lot, and Connections Through Success has been working with them on that. Overall, they are exploring options and getting a better understanding of what it would cost to scale up existing programs that are out there, making connections, how people can support each other, and how to be intentional about offering wraparound supports within strategies.

Rick Skinner expressed appreciation for those who joined the R3 Exchange demonstrations. The online exchange is supposed to launch May 11.

Jamie Saunders provided an encampment report that the evacuation of Market Street would be at 10 am the following day. The Mark Twain Hotel and Western Motel would be full by the following evening. The Buder Rec Center shelter would be opening the following evening. Meals will be provided for the next 4-day period.

Deborah Humphrey from the Mental Health Board of Madison County let everyone know about a webinar on May 14th at 10 am to address childhood trauma during these times.

From the chat:

Barbara Fraser: The Urban League has a food and toiletries give away event coming up. Availability is on a first come, first serve basis.

Saturday, May2, 2020 from 12-3:00 p.m.at the Old Jamestown Mall
175 Jamestown Mall Old Jamestown MO 63034.

Also...In regard to food access, the web-site developed by Dr. Terry Harris from Rockwood School District is all encompassing: it includes all opportunities for food access: school districts, libraries, churches, and others will appear. One merely needs to input one's location and food access options within 10-25-50 miles will appear. If anyone is having trouble finding food they should go to <https://sites.google.com/rsdmo.org/allourkids/home>. The Operation Food Search website has the very same information. The St. Louis County website also has the information available <http://www.stlcorona.com> but it requires a few clicks to get to the access to food section.

Trina at Operation Food Search: www.operationfoodsearch.org/emergency-response-2020 has the child meal map, fact sheets and updates on all of the current benefits available in Missouri through SNAP, WIC, P-EBT, etc.

Rebecca also mentioned a new campaign scaling up around **PPE** as a response to the survey we sent out. The importance and need for PPE was apparent. We will look at 6 different areas of coordination: 1) data and prioritization, 2) funding and in-kind donations, 3) communications and education, 4) sourcing and supply, 5) assembly and distribution, and 6) advocacy. Karishma Furtado and Cristina Garmendia are working on this for the group. We're just getting started on this.

CONCLUSION – JASON PURNELL

Jason concluded by saying that homelessness prevention is on the radar as a future need. When the eviction and utility moratoria are lifted there's a risk of thousands of families becoming newly homeless unless we get out in front of that. Jason had a call this morning about this and will have more to report on that soon.

Jason thanked everyone for all the work being done, noting that engagement from all five counties covered is wonderful. He noted to continue to look at our new website that Kelly Ferrara and others have created: <http://c19rrt.org>.

ADJOURN