Meeting Notes - COVID-19 Regional Response Team (RRT) Call #4
Thursday, April 9th 2020
3:00-4:30 pm

Facilitated by:
Jason Purnell, Washington University in St. Louis
Rebeccah Bennett, Emerging Wisdom LLC

WELCOME
Jason opened the meeting by recognizing once again that we are all human beings doing this work and that we are all very much in this together.

Our coordinating team of support has grown in the past week, with Rebeccah Bennett now guiding planning and facilitation and Kelly Ferrara leading communications; Doneisha Bohannon with Missouri Foundation from Health has been supporting the team from the get-go, and will be the project manager for both the Justice and Legal Supports cluster as well as the Employment cluster.

Today we are joined by our remaining project managers: Katie Kaufmann of Ready By 21 will lead the Children and Education cluster; Monique Thomas of Magnificant will lead the Physical and Behavioral Health cluster; Stacey Easterling is now on board with the Services for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities Cluster; and Gracey Kyung from Urban Strategies will manage the Food, Housing, and Basic Needs cluster.

We are also joined by Ben Perrin from St. Louis COAD and Tina Davis from SLARCC. The Regional Response Team has been very intentional in recognizing that our work is complementing the work of the COADs, and in no way replacing their critical disaster response infrastructure. Given the unprecedented scope of this crisis, we are committed to integrating with them and maintaining open lines of communication.

AGENDA REVIEW

Rebeccah: Review our work for today

1. Share info on coordinated campaigns underway. These serve as examples of how our clusters may create workable solutions to a) share information, and b) see what is possible.
2. Weigh in on the design of a virtual summit to be held in the next 8-12 days.
3. Spend time in clusters so you all can connect with the project managers, discuss leadership, consider composition of the cluster, and discuss decision making.

Introductions
Rebeccah did a roll call of organizations/agencies and their representatives on the call.

Named present were:

- Behavioral Health Network: Wendy Orson, Mary Quandt
- Beyond Housing: Stephanie Co
- Catholic Charities: Don Halpin, Theresa Ruzicka, Tyrone Ford, Karen Wallensak
- Chestnut Health Systems: Jim Wallis
- City of St. Louis Emergency Management Agency: Sarah Gablin-Luig
- Connections to Success: Kathy Lambert
- East Side Aligned: Evan Krauss
- EdPlus: Paul Ziegler
- EHOC: Will Jordan
- Emerging Wisdom LLC: Rebeccah Bennett
- Forward Through Ferguson: Karishma Furtado
- Integrated Health Network: Bethany Johnson-Javois
- Land of Lincoln Legal Aid: Clarissa Gaff, Susan Simone
- Legal Services of Eastern Missouri: Dan Glazier, Jeannie Phillips-Roth, Karen Warren,
- Magnificant: Monique Thomas
- Metropolitan Congregations United: David Gerth
- Missouri Foundation for Health: Doneisha Bohannon
- OASIS: Juliet Simone
- Operation Food Search: Lyndsey Cavender, Trina Ragain
- Paraquad: Aimee Wehmeier, Dave Haessig
- Ready By 21: Katie Kaufmann
- SLARCC: Tina Davis
- St. Clair County: Debra Moore
- St. Louis Area Foodbank: Nicole Hawkins
- St. Louis City Area Agency on Aging: David Sykora
- St. Louis City Senior Fund: Jamie Opsal, Stephanie Herbers
- St. Louis COAD: Ben Perrin
- St. Louis Community Foundation: Elizabeth George
- St. Louis County – Education Liaison: Barbara Fraser
- St. Louis County Department of Human Services: Yusef Scoggin, Andrea Jackson-Jennings
- St. Louis County Department of Public Health: Michelle Mitchell, Sarah Mohammad
- St. Louis County Library: Kristen Sorth
- St. Louis Mental Health Board: Jama Dodson, Serena Muhammad
- St. Louis Regional Business Council: Burgandy Fitzhenry
- Stacey Easterling
- StratCommRx: Kelly Ferrara
- The Salvation Army: LaKeysha Fields, Gary Busiek
- United 4 Children: Deanna Finch, Elisa Zieg
- United Way: Michelle Tucker, Regina Greer, Rick Skinner, Cathy Vaisvil, Robin Pokojski, Justin Storie, Becky White
- Urban Strategies: Grace Kyung
- Washington University and Health Equity Works: Jason Purnell

RESEARCH

Karishma Furtado, Ph.D.: Congratulations, Dr. Furtado! Review of survey results: Last week we distributed a survey and asked you all to share that link to help us understand the landscape. We asked 1) what you do, what population you serve, where you serve them, and who is your point person; 2) what are the community's needs; 3) what are your organizational needs; 4) which other collaborative/coordinating efforts beyond RRT exist for you; and 5) what assets exist within your organization.

The survey was completed by 51 organizations, covering all 5 counties in our RRT footprint. Top community needs were basic needs: food, shelter, clothing, medications; followed closely by health and caregiving. Education rounds out the top 5 and there is a large gap.

Organizations need funding, materials, information support, and logistical support. If you compute the rank sum, as we asked for top 3, the bar charts show the total ranked importance.
Re: Assets – other was listed with themes around caregiver support, basic needs, and network. (We have a website as a resource.)

A reminder was given that some of the needs presented in the framework will be collected via the **survey** that Lead Agencies were asked to send out. Please send it to as many people/organizations as possible to collect data that will inform the clusters. **The survey link can be found [here](#)**.

STRUCTURE

Introducing Campaigns
Last week we introduced Clusters. Today we are introducing Campaigns. Time limited efforts to focus energy around specific solutions may involve one cluster or multiple clusters. We have examples for you today to show how we can work to bring this discussion into action.

1. <u>Homebound adults and individuals with disabilities</u> – Jason shared thoughts and actions of groups currently engaged, and others waiting to be tapped. Phone banking system will be used to determine needs. United Way 2-1-1 will use their navigators (same as dispatcher model) to collect needs centrally, then deploy agencies who can specifically address those needs. They will also close the loop and confirm that a need has been met. Example of what is included: food, utility assistance, rent assistance, personal items, behavioral health assessment. This solution is working with the Regional Response Fund to support the agencies delivering resources. Key qualifier here is those who are homebound. These efforts touch both the Basic Needs cluster and the Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities cluster.

2. <u>School Food Groups</u> – Katie shared the opportunity to address food security and our school system challenges. Many heard that Fergusson-Florissant school district suspended food service. They are not the only district making that decision or facing that decision. We have been merging the Children and Education cluster with the Basic Needs cluster. Operation Food Search and St. Louis Area Foodbank have stepped up to think creatively about what food distribution looks like. How can kids and families be supported? How can we protect volunteers and staff during this time? Because we have so many districts that have differing food service solutions, our campaign team is trying to compile best practice. We are modeling our best practices based on St. Louis County Library. Rebeccah added that vulnerable supply chains for distribution was a topic of conversation last week

3. <u>Basic needs for re-entering populations</u> – Doneisha Bohannon blended the work of Justice and Legal Supports cluster with Basic Needs cluster. Phones, food, prescriptions were identified from a survey. Considering options for extended stay hotels. Catholic Charities and IHN both offered resources.

VIRTUAL SUMMIT

Rebeccah asked the teams to focus on how to hack these social need problems. What is the least amount of resources we need, to generate the highest level of success to save lives in our communities? Rebeccah asked for comments and insights.

Discussion
A. Would we work in clusters? We would likely move discussions to clusters once we get insights from the broader constellation of folks at the summit.
B. How can this move from intellectual conversations to actions? Our work seeks to define solutions that can be acted upon with people who are at this table. Are we starting with open-ended questions? No, last week in clusters we had the teams identify their most pressing needs. Those are being vetted against the data from Karishma. Can we share what the needs are by cluster and then spend time in the hack-a-thon to address and resolve these issues? Also, who is needed to solve these issues? The summit purpose would be to generate solutions, prioritize them, and use clusters to define the approach.
C. Is the goal making the survey findings and the conversations from last week's meeting to be actionable? There were some common themes across the sectors. Are there two tiers of solutions here? Community-wide such as PPE. A second layer is how the clusters are structured. There are some immediate needs with a medical focus and there will also be isolation needs.
D. There is a power and simplicity in hearing the problem stated. TANF changing rules may not have been a game-changer in some conversation circles, yet here, it made a huge difference.
E. We want to enlarge these tables. This work was never intended to be exclusive. There is a Regional Response Team and there is a Regional Response Movement as well. Multiple, concurrent efforts can help us all row in the same direction, which is a secondary goal of this. Be solution-oriented, and also say "welcome to the table", and push work to the clusters and cross-cluster campaigns.
F. Finding ways to align resources and integrate them so we can act now is a key solution.

RRT CLUSTER WORK

The clusters for today's conversation breakouts are:
1) Food, Housing & Basic Needs
2) Physical & Behavioral Health
3) Childcare & Education
4) Employment (blending today only with) Justice & Legal Supports
5) Services For Older Adults & People With Disabilities
Clusters met to discuss necessary next steps.
The group reconvened briefly before wrapping up.

ADJOURN