



Meeting Notes - COVID-19 Regional Response Team (RRT) Call #8

Thursday, May 7th 2020

3:00-4:00 pm

Facilitated by:

Jason Purnell, Washington University in St. Louis

Rebecca Bennett, Emerging Wisdom LLC

WELCOME – JASON PURNELL

We continue to wish you your families and loved ones all well and continue to be concerned about the people in our community who do not have what they need. Thank you to everyone for your work.

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

1. Homebound Elders and Individuals with Disabilities – Stacey Easterling

The launch of the homebound effort focusing on elders and people with disabilities is May 8th. They will be fed into the 211 system and then connected with providers that are ready to address those basic needs (food, utility assistance, rental assistance, or personal care). They will have more to update on how it's going next week. There are about a dozen providers across the region ready and able to do that work. The county reach for this is Madison, St. Clair, St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and St. Charles.

2. Unhoused – Grace Kyung and Monique Thomas

In recent meetings, they have learned about needs around technology. After a quick assessment with shelters and hotels/motels, they finalized a quick proposal for tablets to be used soon as possible. They've secured the funding to purchase these tablets and everyone has said this would be a huge help.

They are continuing to update the process flow map and are determining what questions to ask when doing outreach, understanding needs, and what the pathway is from shelters to stable housing. Next week they should have some good flow charts ready to share.

As they move to telehealth, there is the opportunity to expand but they just want to put something in the hands of the shelters to start. They are working with other established providers who have been doing this already to make sure they are HIPAA compliant and following best practices.

3. School/Food – Katie Kaufmann

The majority of school districts across the Missouri side of the river and beyond the three county reach of their team are planning to continue to feed students into the summer.

Districts expressed wanting to take advantage of the support from this group and the resources that we have access to, like National Guard members to help hand out food.

Most would like to help serve those over the age of 18, as well, with partnerships with Operation Food Search and the St. Louis Area Food Bank.

They are thankful that we have this existing pathway to feed community members and that school districts are willing to do more. St. Louis County Library continues to make connections, as well.

Jim Wallis from Chestnut asked about cooperation with schools in Illinois. Katie said the challenge is finding an entity that has a breadth of district relationships like EdPlus has in MO. They would love to have specific connections to school districts if anyone has those. Jim said he would send her some information because Chestnut is in about 80 schools in IL, so there are some good working relationships.

4. Personal Protective Equipment – Rebecca Bennett

- a) They have a good start on data and prioritization of the coordinated response addressing PPE. Karishma and Cristina have been working on a survey instrument that is ready to go live this week. Karishma presented the survey to the team.

She explained the intention to equitably allocate PPE where there is greatest need paired with lowest access, so the focus is on those central dimensions of access and risk. The survey is intended for those in frontline roles. Questions are asked in different sections about:

- Who they serve, what percentage is black, volumes served per week, what do frontline staff look like in terms of numbers, interactions with clients, how long they engage, and how many non-frontline staff are interacting with frontline staff that could be then at risk
- Age risk factors, and staff black/Latinx/Native American makeup
- Where the work is done according to ZIP code, organized by counties– they wanted to overlay all the other risk data with transmission related risk data
- An access info profile – what do they have, what do they need, and what sense of stability they have with their access
- What funds they have available

All information can lead to what orders should be placed and getting PPE in the hands of those who need it most.

Will Pinkney asked if people are competing against each other regionally for the PPE, and how quickly are people getting the PPE? Rebecca said they don't have an answer yet; they will hopefully have those answers soon. The point of the survey isn't just to get information, but to inform and distribute stock and inventory. They will soon have a large amount available to

distribute, especially surgical masks, in the next week or so and they don't want to sit on supply.

Jason added that this is an effort to try and coordinate grassroots efforts to source PPE and bring together resources for getting PPE to sectors and parts of our community who aren't going to be high on the list of priority through the traditional sources of PPE. We are trying to get it to early childhood centers and other nonprofit frontline providers who won't be getting it quickly through the state or other sources.

Serena Muhammad asked if there's somewhere we can direct people if they want to purchase PPE on their own. Rebeccah said they've been tracking retail supply to get the best pricing, so they can probably help with that information and can work with folks at the Regional Data Alliance.

PPE is only as good as our knowledge of proper use. Therefore, they have created handouts to share with the distribution. Kelly has created a mask use guide (instruction and education) which can be accessed on the C19RRT.org website under Resources → Face masks/PPE. (Kelly noted that they've also added the volunteer network to the Resources list. The website is constantly being updated.)

For these handouts, they used a health literate angle here that would be user-friendly. There is one that shows how to use a homemade cloth mask the best way so it can be reused. A second document is about surgical masks. There are graphics and step by step instructions on both. Please share all these handouts widely and broadly.

They are also working on something that explains risks and the right level of PPE. In general, they want to have appropriate education and literature to go along with whatever PPE they distribute.

Kristen Sorth said she would be happy to share videos St. Louis County Library has about mask use.

From the chat: Jacquelyn Ballard of International Institute said flyers and resources in multiple languages, are available at <https://www.iistl.org/covid-19/> or the Immigrant Service Providers Network at <https://www.ispnstl.org/resources>.

Rebeccah said there are also mask use guides on Prepare STL's website for immigrant or refugee populations in many languages.

- b) The last piece will be focusing on funding supports. They are expecting a large in-kind donation coming their way soon.

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

- a) Heads up that St. Louis County will be offering the Small Business Relief Program (for-profit, sole proprietorships, and non-profits). Details can be found at

<http://stlcorona.com/resources/small-business-relief-program/>. Presumptive deadline is May 14. You can request up to \$15K for reopening costs. There are several questions in the application that are pre-qualifiers or disqualifiers, so pay attention to those. Overall, they will be issuing \$2.5 million maximum per county council district. Additional info on something similar for St. Louis City will be coming out soon.

b) CARES Act funding is a new section on the resources page of our C19RRT.org website.

Other Updates

- The Prepare STL team is working to support reopening for ECCs as the stay at home order lifts. Kids Win MO has put together guides to help them think through what this looks like safely, how many individuals are allowed to gather, how to use PPE correctly, operating with this level of sanitation and cleanliness, etc. Next Friday and Saturday they will be canvassing to 221 ECCs operating in the city of St. Louis. United for Children is also working to establish supply hubs in St. Charles and the Illinois side, as well.
- Will Pinkney mentioned an RFP that will come out in next couple days for Community Block Grant Development funds from the city's Development Corporation. Info will be available on the City of St. Louis website and may also be pushed out via Twitter.
- Rick Skinner told the team that the R3 Resource name is being changed to Need Feed. 101 people participated in the demos for this, and they are well on track to test and launch. They also received a green light to have a priority backlog item be the next part of the agenda.
- Rick also mentioned that the Brown School is offering student workers who want to be in field units. For information, or to express interest, in utilizing field team students from the Brown School at Washington University, please email Rick.Skinner@stl.unitedway.org.
- Juliette from Oasis told the team about the launch of Oasis Everywhere. They will be virtualizing many of the programs they've been doing in person. It won't end when the stay at home orders are lifted. It will help serve as a resource for combatting social isolation and health programs for older adults in the future.
- Karen Warren from Legal Services of Eastern MO told the team about a series of Facebook Live webinars and informational sheets on various aspects of the law affected by pandemic. Links are on their website.
- Sue Simone from the Land of Lincoln Legal Aid in St. Clair said they also have a series of info on their website about legal areas that have been affected, like evictions, home ownership, SNAP, Medicaid, etc.
- United Way's Emergency Food and Shelter Program will be distributing some of the funding from the CARES Act. Applications will be on the United Way website next week for 501(c)(3) organizations that provided help with food utilities and rent/mortgage assistance. This will be

open to St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Jefferson County, Monroe County and St. Clair County. There will be a very quick turnaround.

- Jason said doctors from Infectious Disease at Washington University School of Medicine will be providing technical assistance as reopening happens. They had some meetings specific to the school space this morning, but are hoping it can be expanded to other settings and sectors as well as reopening is happening.

CONCLUSION – JASON PURNELL

This is a real testament to the coming together of this region in this time of crisis. He has been saying often that he has been pleasantly surprised and gratified by the collaboration and coordination of people like this team and many others who have come together to respond to this crisis. We are building civic muscle that will live beyond this crisis and we will recover better in ways that center the most vulnerable population and not just use leftover resources or ideas to deal with them, but use our best thinking and our best resources. Thank you for being engaged in that work.

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