

**Welcome** – Serena Muhammad

**Grant proposals to addressing racial disparities in COVID vaccination in St. Louis City and County** – Matt Kreuter from Washington University

Matt started his presentation by reviewing the grant proposals his office at Washington University has worked on with various partners. The presentation will also show ways that RRT and CAN can participate.

Many St. Louis partners are involved in grants from NIH and the CDC.

- NIH CEAL
- Vaccinate with Confidence
- RadXUp

All grants are moving quickly so that actions can be taken quickly rather than working for a year and then moving.

CEAL – Community Engagement Alliance. There are 21 CEAL teams nationally. Here in Missouri, focusing on St. Louis County and St. Louis City. 4 projects were proposed:

- Project #1
  - Vaccine Ambassadors – take advantage of 15-minute window post-vaccination to see if those people would be willing to share with friends, family, neighbors information about vaccines. Referrals would receive a “special access pass” and concierge service. They would track how these referrals move through the community.
    - RRT might be interested in leading the referrals. RRT partners might be receiving some of the referrals.
- Project #2
  - Outreach through agencies – 200+ agencies will be given a menu of offerings to help them execute the outreach choice. Track the outreach and results
- Project #3
  - Misinformation Monitoring – track misinformation weekly by mobile phone survey. Report findings on a dashboard and create and distribute counter messages.
- Project #4
  - Research hub – requirement of all CEAL Teams.
    - One-stop, full-service distribution for COVID-19 research
    - Therapeutic, vaccine, testing, preventing
    - Available by web and phone

### Vaccinate with Confidence - CDC Grant

- Build trust in communities
- Ensure healthcare workers have resources they need
- Engage communities
- Project #5 – Match outreach strategies to sub-groups
  - What vaccine delivery and outreach modalities are used?
  - Who responds to each?
  - Can we create a playbook?
- Project #6 – COVID experiences and vaccine hesitancy
  - How do COVID experiences affect vaccine thoughts, feelings?
  - 80 interviews with those adversely affected by COVID
- Project #7 – Hub for vaccination enabling services
  - Transportation and navigation is underutilized in St. Louis
  - Make things easier to find
  - Evaluate use
  - RRT can be the hub

### RadXUp (under-served population) – NIH initiative

- About 70 projects nationally, and a few others in St. Louis
- Project #8 – Rent-relief helpline
  - After helping with rent, ask about vaccination plans
  - If interested, get them vaccinated
  - If not, offer free in-home COVID-19 self-tests
  - Track interest and uptake

### Discussion amongst the group

- John Zakibe from St. Louis City Area Agency on Aging
  - Works on homebound program and getting them access to vaccination appointments.
  - Works well when people sign up. Hard part is getting people to call him back.
  - Matt indicated that if there is a need for working with homebound and seniors, let's figure out it out. They will talk offline.
- Donna Pupillo – working across the region.
  - In the city, they are making referrals to St. Louis City Area Agency on Aging.
  - Problem areas are rural areas like Jefferson and Franklin counties.
- Jamie Opsal - So many people want access but agency workers can only work so fast. There are too few people assigned to do this work.
  - Matt indicated that there could be grant money to help with doing this work. Will take this conversation offline.
- Serena put options about how RRT members can get involved
  - Option A - We serve clients that we would like to help connect to vaccinators
    - Chestnut Health Systems

- Deaconess Nurses
- Option B - We work with community members that might be interested in participating on a paid panel, survey, etc.
  - Chestnut Health Systems
  - St Louis County Childrens Service Fund
  - Deaconess Nurses
  - St. Louis Community Foundation
- Question – how large is the homebound population? Hard to answer that question

Serena closed the meeting –

- Matt will send Serena a slide with all 8 projects
- Email will be sent to all with the project recap and follow-up as to what each agency is interested in and how they can assist.