



DEHMS Region 3 Long-Term Recovery Regional Steering Committee

July 23rd, 2020

Thursday, 3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting*

NOTES

Attending

Cheryl Assis
Kim Bona – CRCOG
Melvyn Colon
Patrick – Hartford Hospital
Lisa DeMatteis-Lepore
Jen Gifford
Angela Harris
Beverly Henry
Julio Mendoza – SAMA
Jessica Muirhead - CRCOG
Rebecca Nolan
Scott Shanley
Lisa Tepper Bates - CT
Laurie Whitten
Pauline Yoder - CRCOG
Lyle Wray – CRCOG

1. **Welcome from Lyle Wray**

2. **Comments from Lisa Tepper Bates, Governor's Office**

- CT is the top performing state in the country, thanks to everyone in the state for their work
- Asked to put the structure in place to get resources to where they are needed to help people self-isolate
- Washington State has terrible news, the reason they are unable to control it is because of lack of support to self-isolate, which is why virus is spreading there, that problem has not been solved.
- This is of critical importance for CT to continue to contain the virus.
- **Regional resource coordinators update** – to be able to provide adequate non-medical support, because no one is being ordered to self-isolate, and provide additional resources, the Department of Social Services put out an RFP for community resource coordinators. Start with 15 coordinators across the state, 4 in the Hartford area. Job is to receive the names of people in the contract tracing information, to identify non-medical needs. Will be the first points of contact between affected contacts and resources and be accountable to meet those needs as quickly as possible. Contract is currently being negotiated for a service provider, target start date is August 10th.
- Members of the committee commended the Governor's office and the state for their leadership and accomplishments to put Connecticut in the position it is currently in.

- *Question:* Has the state considered using trusted community partners as a part of the initial contact for issues of trust?
 - The contract tracing team currently is recruiting people with significant, sophisticated medical background as the front-line, but there is also space for volunteers and community workers to be a part of the solution.

Introductions

Status Updates

- Testing
 - Mendoza – told it may take up to 11 days to receive the test back; too late for test to be of use
 - Yoder – No updates other than what Lisa had outlined
 - *Question* – Are we using the capacity of the state lab or only private companies to process tests?
 - Unknown at this time, will have to check.
- Wray – Looking for co-chair of this committee.

Survey Results

- Bona presented the summary of the responses received thus far for the Human Services needs survey.
 - Survey was sent to area towns and some Region 3 towns. 20 towns have responded. About 50% have populations greater than 20k.
 - Biggest issue was financial distress, inability to pay for basic necessities.
 - Quarantine and Isolation issues
 - Inability to obtain medical needs/medication
 - Mask compliance
 - Technology access and difficulty for elderly and special needs.
 - Transportation needs
 - Psychological/emotional distress
 - Temporary housing
 - Face masks
 - Housing
 - Tenants and landlords, eviction
 - Homelessness and displacement
 - Suitable shelters for people with disabilities, availability of shelters generally
 - Mortgage relief
 - Gap between getting disability income and no income in the meantime.
 - Elder Care
 - Requiring constant care, lack insurance, lack of interaction
 - Cooling and heating assistance when cooling and heating centers are unavailable
 - Child Care
 - Issues with child care, summer camps, summer activities, educational activities and safety
 - Inability to obtain services for children with disabilities
 - Addition Services
 - Virtual options don't provide the needed interaction and connection for people new to recovery

- Access to professional services and support, increases in anxiety and depression due to the covid situation
 - Domestic Violence
 - Temporary relocation services, increase in domestic violence, financial assistance
 - Other areas
 - Hotlines suggested for residents to obtain information and services
 - Employment skills and training for people who have not worked in some time
- Yoder – in summary, need to connect who needs help with who can provide help, financial resources are needed.
- Harris – some extension for home and rental relief from the department of housing in the state; moratorium on evictions ends in August, but these resources are meant to help before you get to that point.
 - Beginning at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15, call the number below and speak to a Call Center Representative to determine if you qualify for TRHAP assistance. For additional information about the program, please visit <https://portal.ct.gov/doh>

State of Connecticut Temporary Rental Housing Assistance Program (TRHAP): 1-860-785-3111

Beginning at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, July 15, call the number below and speak to a Call Center Representative to determine if you qualify for T-MAP assistance. For additional information about the program, please visit <https://www.chfa.org>

State of Connecticut Temporary Mortgage Assistance Program (T-MAP): 1-860-785-3111

RENTERS

Potential applicants will be directed to a Centralized Call Center for Threshold Eligibility, after which a detailed application must be completed, including verification of documentation.

Initial priority for assistance will be targeted at individuals and families who have been denied unemployment assistance from the Department of Labor.

If you are unemployed/under-employed and have not yet filed for unemployment assistance, you should do so as soon as possible.

Please make every attempt to remain in contact with your landlord, and to make rental payments.

HOME OWNERS

Up to \$10,000,000 in emergency loan funds will be available to help homeowners pay their housing costs, allowing them to remain in their homes as they work to regain financial stability.

Eligible Households with incomes at or below 120% of the area median income will be eligible to apply for up to \$25,000 in the form of a second mortgage loan.

Potential applicants will be directed to a Centralized Call Center for Threshold Eligibility

- Shanley – perhaps senior center staff in towns should be redeployed for senior services coordination
- Wray – would like to get more information on issues raised with 211
- Henry – may not know that they can call 211

- Gifford – frustrated sometimes because calling 211 doesn't have a service to help address their need (service does not exist). But 211 keeps records of unmet needs, could access that information to see the unmet needs.
 - *Question: Are other regions doing similar types of surveys?*
 - Turley – Region 3 is ahead of the curve on the survey; other regions have asked for the survey results to go over in their regions
- Mendoza – the elderly also do not have access to the internet, not just technology. Can't connect over the internet either even if had the technology.

Update on Human Services Subcommittee

- Yoder – now meeting weekly
- Turley – looking at trying to find some way to organize and track disaster case workers and municipalities so that agencies are not duplicating efforts

Community Planning and Capacity Working Group Committee

- Committee is not yet stood up
- Wray – initial response will be on health and safety and economic assistance, but later response will be on economic development, business, and the workforce/training.
- Would be valuable to hear from the Governor's task forces on workforce and economic development (and to brief them)
 - Potential targeted industry in food services and hospitality, where people may not return to that industry, or do not want to return
 - Update on EDA grant
- Suggest people who would have good skills for the working groups.
 - Harris - Possible to get a description of the working group to share with potential members?
 - Wray – Yes. And do not have to be a part of the steering committee in order to be in a working group.

End 4:10 PM