

**Emergency Partners/Community Needs COVID 19
Meeting Notes 4/01/2020**

Participating on the call:

Attendees: Mae, Sue, Lisa, Beth, Kelly, Fred- United Way of Portage County
Iodowu Odedpsu, Stevens Point Housing Authority
Kathy Budelier, Operation Bootstrap
RoseAnn Debot-Operation Bootstrap
Greg Wright, Create POCO
Jeremy Higgins, Boys & Girls Club
Erin Andrews, Community Foundation
Marlee Bockhoven, Community Foundation
Margo Willard, Ascension St. Michaels Foundation
Joe Seubert, YMCA
Meg Erler, Stevens Point Schools
Ed Wilson, Salvation Army
Bob Quam, Salvation Army
Heather-Emergency Services
Jerry Gargulak, Stevens Point Schools
BobbieJoy Amann-Beloved Community Church
Mike Clement-Veteran Services
Adam Groskreutz-SSVF
Doug Schneider, Woodlands Church
Katie Gonzalez-Martin-PCHHS
CAP Services-Mary Patoka, Daryl Woods-FCC, Trina Bierman & Lisa Grasshoff-
Mental Health, Navigator, Phong Vang-UPLIFT
Jenny Riggerbach-Farmshed
Chris Holman-Portage County Executive
Mindy McCord-Portage County Executive Assistant
Wendy Savage-American Red Cross
Kristi Cooley-ADRC Rural Delivered Meals
Tasha Beestman-Meals on Wheels
Mike Champion-Justice Works

My apologies if I missed anyone:

Sue Wilcox-United Way

Many in the community who want to volunteer, professional employees who want to volunteer. Also churches. Please consider how volunteers can help you.

CREATE Portage County

- Using their 3-D printers, and those of MSTC to make face shields to meet high need medical supply demand.
- Trying to get more 3D printers to keep supply going 24/7. Economic recovery team formed for Portage County that includes PCBC, PABA, CREATE, Village of Plover and other entities.
- A website **www.portageeconrecovery.org** is one stop location to learn about grants, loans, and other supports.

- Biggest concerns of employers are layoff and wanting to keep employees as long as possible. Noted that there is expanded ability for people to get unemployment benefits. gregw@createportagecounty.org

Stevens Point Housing Authority

- Closed common area to residents.
- Outside guests coming in from home healthcare and some others. Tenants should e-mail or call if they have questions. T
- Trying to limit interactions as much as possible. So far tenants seem to be getting needs met through meal deliveries, caregivers, etc.
- Meg Erler has made some deliveries to Briggs St. building. You may want to put up a notice with the Emergency Services (715-344-7438) number for tenants to reach out to Bootstrap.

PCHHS

- Foodshare applications were an average of 218 per week for (Central Consortium consists of four counties not only Portage County) for February. Last week alone (week of March 23rd) 305 applications (Central Consortium), this week (week of March 30th) has been about the same number of applications.
- The state has pushed out annual renewals for foodshare, delayed by 3 months which is helping workload for new apps. Wait times have increased but maintaining.
- Limiting lobby services, would prefer people call in to call center. **1-888-445-1621** or visit www.access.wisconsin.gov or www.imcentralconsortium.org . CAP has links to these on their website homepage capservices.org

CAP Services

- CAP applied for WEDC funds for small business grants, lots of requests for Paycheck Protection Program for non-profits and small business under 500 employees- keep people on through June 15 with no layoff the loan is forgiven.
- Covers up to 2 months of operating expenses. You must work with a certified bank.
- Cash assistance emergency program- talking with United Way and Community Foundation and putting in application today for the Portage County COVID Relief Fund - PCCRF. Watch for media releases.

Mental Health Navigation

Significant outreach to community partners. Available to support and connect, volume of calls is currently low. Staff believe most people are focused on meeting basic needs at this time.

Note from Trina and Lisa:

During these unprecedented times, CAP Services' Mental Health Navigation program wants to assure our community that we are remaining "open" to support those in need of mental health care. At this time, all services will be done via telephone and/or email. Staff are still available to connect individuals with community supports, online resources, and therapists who are providing appointments via telehealth. Please know that MHN is here for you to offer a listening ear during these overwhelming and challenging times. We remain dedicated to our community and to providing services that enhance your well-being. We are all in this together.

Please reach out if you need support. **Trina (715-343-7104)** or tbierman@capmail.org and Lisa **(715-343-7108)** or lgrasshoff@capmail.org are here for you.

Family Crisis Center

- We have a little space right now, holding for more severe domestic violence cases, expecting things to get worse before better.
- Severity level of domestic abuse is increasing. They are beginning to find more available supplies. Staff are dropping off and pulling back.
- Staffing down about 25% but working with it.
- At this point we are not doing much with volunteers due to preparation/training, plus keeping the facility clean.

UPLIFT

- Increase in unemployment and helping those to file.
- Asian grocery stores say it is difficult to order rice because people from other counties/different areas are coming here to buy rice as well.
- Working with Woodlands church on a Rice Drive. Any type of rice is fine. Can drop rice off at Woodlands on Mondays from 10-3 and Tuesdays from 10 – noon. Uplift picks it up from Woodlands at noon on Tuesdays.
- E-learning ESL team from school district working together to help facilitate learning.

Woodlands

- Doors open Mon 10-3 for rice drops, Tues. between 10-Noon.
- Continue with Backpacks for Hope distributed through BGC, can expand if necessary. Families can pick these “backpacks” of groceries when they pick up their meal at BGC if needed.
- They can other food relief opportunities if needed, talking with Sue Wilcox and others. Blood Drive April 23 at Woodlands. Contact the American Red Cross to make an appointment is suggested so they can prepare for who is coming in, so they do not have an excess of people there or people are not standing and waiting.
- Many Woodland’s members are willing to assist community members-reach out to Doug

American Red Cross

Visit www.Redcrossblood.org to make an appt. Woodlands providing volunteers for the Blood Drive.

SPAPSD

- Providing breakfast and lunch for all students with drop spots throughout the community on buses (between 10-11 each day) or picking up from all schools except Charles Fernandez.
- 6000 meals per day and increasing steadily. Meals are for any persons age 18 and under, enrolled or not at any school, or are homeschooled.

- BGC is providing dinner each night to any child in the community in Point and Plover locations.
- District has an internet hot spot in Junction City which is available all day. Planning stages of additional hot spots in the community where families do not have access to internet service. Hot spot devices for individual families struggling with internet access and have asked for more of these devices. As we see additional needs of families, we are trying to problem solve as we go.
- District Admin and staff are really stepping up. All bus drivers, food service, most EA's, Custodial staff are working.
- Still gaps in systems- some families cannot get to places or lack fortitude to get to those places. Jerry G. is hand delivering meals and supplies using social distancing.
- People are concerned about basic needs like food, toiletries, and rent. Struggling with what to do with kids all day.
- Jerry G. is making families aware of basic needs programs for help, Jerry G. facilitating some calls/referrals. Families don't know or forget about resources. Really concerned about basic needs and not getting sick. People really want contact and have to be reminded to maintain distance. Encourage neighbor or friend to pick up meals and also contact the district and they will figure out how to get to them.
- Woodlands has volunteers willing to deliver meals.
- Requests for dish soap and laundry detergent.

Operation Bootstrap

- Provide food, rent, toiletries, diapers, dish soap and gift cards Aldi's, Trigs, Metro Market (\$25 for small families and \$50 for larger families) for items families need which are not available at Bootstrap...remember to think of this with families.
- Gave 2 weeks of food to about 77 people on 3/31.
- Could use more delivery people but working with that they have.
- 2 people in the office and 2 people in the pantry for social distancing.
- No clients in building, only in the parking lot and sanitizing carts before they come back in the building.
- Volunteers should contact **Melissa 1-414-526-8249** if they would like to help

Boys & Girls Club (BGC)

Significant increase in meals over last week. Served 170 meals Monday and on Tuesday 240 meals. They are looking at how to access more food because their regular food providers are having food shortages as well.

- Continuing online programming.
- Added staff doing individual outreach to check on families. Kids getting cabin fever, anxiety level is climbing.
- Families focused on finding and keeping their jobs. Doing mentoring and outreach as needed.
- Meals being provided along with take home kits; Delta Dental take home kits with book for Dental Hygiene and toothbrushes.

Farmshed

Gathering info from 100 plus farms and businesses. Many already have plants in the ground, planning for restaurant contracts they no longer have. May have excess food to source locally as needs change.

United Way-Fred

- On call yesterday with UW Worldwide about forgivable loans.
- Paycheck Protect Program was suggested for United Ways to apply for.
- Grants available through June 30, acceptance begins April 3.
- Small business and non-profits. All will be vying for this and non-profits need to act quickly.
- Fred did the sample form and it took about 8 minutes to complete. Could get 8 weeks of payroll assistance.

Community Foundation

- Continue to work with other non-profits encouraging to apply for loan Fred mentioned.
- Encouraging local support for non-profits, especially with volunteer support.
- Looking at impact on charitable giving to use new requirements to mobilize resources for the community.
- Continuing to work with United Way on Covid Relief fund. Also working in Waushara County to support.

Emergency Services

- Emergency Services has doubled call center.
- Training 2-3 more people in customer care.
- Down to one month income instead of 3 months previous. Trying to get as many people benefit or energy assistance as they can.
- Talked to sheriff about foreclosures or evictions to inform this cannot happen right now.
- Many clients worried about evictions right now. Calls are crazy on both emergency and energy services end. Working over the phone as much as possible.
- Where can their clients go for rent? They can go to Operation Bootstrap, Beloved Community (715-204-8212), and Salvation Army (715-341-3233) for rent assistance. Compassionate Community at Beloved Community is raising more dollars for rental assistance. Rental requests are increasing by the day.

Veterans Services

- Doing everything electronically, **715-346-1310** Vets Benefit Specialist
Vets relief veterans@co.portage.wi.us for vets separated under honorable discharge to help with meds, rent, food, etc. Contact above e-mail or number for assistance.

Salvation Army

- Still doing meals, meals to go only for anyone not currently living at the facility.
- If calling for rent, ask for Jennifer and she will help them through that process.
- Things going well, people from shelter into apartments.
- Box lunches available along with food basket. **715-341-2347**

Rural Delivered Meals/Meals on Wheels

- Still providing home delivered meals, capacity daily, weekly phone calls to those on hold for meal delivery.
- Currently continuing to serve most high risk and vulnerable people. Meals on Wheels adding an additional route next week.
- Doing some changes based on calls from last week.
- Would Woodlands Church want to do some phone calls? Could give a daily phone call list. Yes, Woodlands is willing to do these calls. Realistically, this could be up to 200 individuals needing calls. Woodlands will see if they have capacity. Other groups have expressed interest in this type of volunteer opportunity. MOW/Rural would set up conference call for training.
- Rural is delivering to 60 individuals every day, next week they will move to just two days per week to 60 individuals.
- MOW has 56 deliveries on Tuesday and Friday, but getting a total of 7 meals for the week with frozen meals. MOW is adding another route of 14 meals next week with a total of 70 meals. Will assess after that point.
- Are getting some new requests for delivered meals each day. They are telling people that they can take their information for now, but are not taking new people. However, they are screening new individuals to see if there is a nutritional need. Referring those they cannot serve at this time to other services. Advising them to call 211.

YMCA

- 48 children in care for essential workers.
- Reaching out to vulnerable senior and adaptive rec populations to see if they are okay and asking if they have any needs.
- Possibly using YMCA location for a blood drive, will communicate date when it is set.
- Idea presented about volunteers going in to help disinfect grocery stores.

Justice Works

- There each day, closed to general public.
- Law center up and running via telecommuting.
- Court dates pushed out until mid-May and will be via teleconferencing. All activities suspended, prisons no longer accepting new inmates.
- Folks on probation not subject to holds, no consequences currently and can expect significant violations of probation and increased crime.
- Those in jail for minor violations have been released.

Community Thrift Store

- Open every Tuesday- things happening outside.
- People more anxious each week.
- Serving 3-8 families per week on days other than Tuesdays as “emergency needs”. 209 families yesterday (3/31), 185 last week Tuesday (3/24).
- Numbers continue to increase. Calls are going up every day for food, diapers, toiletries, pet food, etc.

- Their contact number is **715-252-3946**. Normal operation is 1 call per week for emergency food needs. The people inside are all over 70 and staying away from those they don't know. Let United Way know if you need any volunteer support.

County Executive

- Daily press releases at 5:00 for any county information. Any info from this group to cast a wider net, let Chris know.
- Link to documents on website as a one stop. Emergency Operation Center running, will talk with section chief and find liaison for county to help on fronts they can.
- Working hard on the governance act, County Board reorganization.
- Election- National Guard distributing items. Big need for poll workers, some municipalities only have a third of their normal poll workers. Will put call out to all county employees.
- Call your municipal clerk if you are interested in helping. Meg Erler suggests sharing with School District for poll workers.
- Request from DHS for volunteer guidance efforts and how to handle.
- Reacting to federal legislation. Community seems to be falling into a pace, thanks for everything that everyone is doing.
- Monitoring flooding, dam operators are very coordinated. We are watching, it is high and no one worried about an impending situation.
- Red Cross is also monitoring flooding and ready to respond if flooding were to occur. Red Cross working directly with community managers.
- Chris- would you send these minutes to all townships, villages, etc. Sue Wilcox indicated will also include Resource Directory and Help for Hard Times.

211

- Megan indicated 14-15 calls from Portage County per day.
- Many calls regarding free tax services, most needs have been met.
- The few unmet needs vary for why they were unmet. For the tax programs it would be that there are no other programs to help at this time.
- Other reasons for unmet needs might be that the caller isn't eligible for the program.

Mae

- Childcaring is looking for help to get hand sanitizer to childcare workers. If anyone has leads e-mail Mae and she will pass on.
- Today is Census day, please complete your Census today! Go online to complete. Please pass the word along in those you serve in your program. The count is important for local funding that comes back to Portage County from the federal and state government.
- Meg Erler also encouraged everyone to vote.

Reminder of our next call-Wednesday, April 8th at 10:00 am.

