

Region 12, Inner Banks, NC Balance of State Monthly Meeting

Conference call

Wednesday April 8, 2020-9:00 AM-10:30 AM

Present

Ken Becker, Community Crossroads Center

Eboni Campbell, AmeriHealth Caritas

Dr. David Collier (Brody School of Medicine)

James Cox, United Way, Regional Lead

Margaret Dixon, Pitt County Planning

Melissa Eastwood, Trillium Health Resources

Deloris Farmer, Pitt County Planning

Phoenix Hinson, City of Greenville

Lynne James, Pitt County Planning

Sally Love, Beaufort County United Way

Linda Mandell, Pitt County Planning (SOAR)

James Rhodes, Pitt County Planning

Tujuanda Sanders, Greenville Housing Authority

Kenneth Staton, Greenville Housing Authority

Introductions and Approval of March 2020 Minutes

The April 2020 Pitt Regional Committee (Inner Banks) meeting began with introductions. Jim asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Lynne James made a motion to approve the minutes with Deloris Farmer seconding that motion. The minutes were accepted and approved.

Updates/Reports:

NC Balance of State Steering Committee & Work Groups

Steering Committee/Conference Call 4/7/2020

The Steering Committee call was April 7, 2020. Jim will email everyone the call summary when he receives it. Jim encouraged everyone to review the summaries each month.

Guest Speaker: Dr. David Collier (Brody School of Medicine, Community Crossroads Center Board) COVID 19 Update

Dr. Collier stated there are approximately 1.4 million confirmed cases of Coronavirus worldwide. There have been 83,000 deaths worldwide to date. The US, Spain, and England are considered hot spots. We have not reached the peak yet. There are daily updates on the DHHS website. There have been 3,221 confirmed cases in NC. There have been 46 deaths. Approximately 41,000 tests have been administered. There were 44 confirmed cases in Pitt County as of yesterday and 1 death (may increase to 3 due to updates from Vidant). All ages are susceptible. 42% are between the ages of 25-50. 30% are between the ages of 50-65, 20% in those 65 years old and older. 80% of deaths have occurred in individuals 65 or older. Older men and people with underlying health conditions seem to be at the greatest risk. The virus is transmitted by droplets/aerosol. There is a 100% probability that we have Community acquired transfer, person to person transfer. Social Distancing is the best tool for prevention. The virus is highly infectious. Here are things Dr. Collier recommended to prevent transmission (shelter): Social distancing (maintain 6 feet), reduce the census, head to toe sleeping arrangements, barriers, increase handwashing and provide more handwashing stations, check temperatures and do health screenings, offer education to shelter residents, offering residents masks, and limit volunteers. There has been a shift in thinking recently regarding masks. Everyone is being encouraged to wear masks in social settings to reduce the risk of getting or transmitting the virus. Dr. Collier encouraged everyone to let him know if you need hand sanitizer. Washington Distillery is making it in 50 gallon lots and he should be able to obtain it. Lynne stated that she received a call from ECU asking about a plan if someone tests positive at the shelter. Dr. Collier stated that we will engage county services. Randy with Emergency Management/or the county should provide quarantine situation offsite. They are working on a plan to secure hotels to quarantine. Dr. Collier provided guidance regarding homemade masks. He stated that there is a Center for Disease Control website series on homemade masks. He stated that everyone should have at least 2 masks. They should be washed daily if possible. Wash in hot water, dry on hot setting. Kids who recover from COVID continue to shed the virus for a long time (fecal route). KJ asked how long the virus lasts on surfaces. This varies depending on surface type. It is short lived on porous surfaces like paper, cotton, cardboard (lasts approximately 24 hours). On hard services the virus can last 10-20 days. Sanitize frequently touched surfaces (ex. Door knobs, light switches, handles, places that are touched a lot, etc.). Hydrogen Peroxide is very effective at killing the virus. Cleaning agents that have 60% alcohol are effective. Soap and water are effective. Bleach solutions are effective. Jim will send out Dr. Collier's email.

A. 2020 ESG Grant

Jim stated that there is money in the pipeline. Lynne stated that there was an announcement of funds for ESG COVID. There are 2 rounds of funding. The same formula will be used for allocating funds. The second round of funding will be distributed in 90 days. Lynne stated that they are awaiting direct guidance from the NC ESG office. Lynne stated that they are making exceptions and waiving certain things so that households can continue to be moved into housing quickly. (Ex. They are waiving initial inspections. Inspections can be done virtually. Inspections need to be done within 3 months of ending COVID restrictions. If rent is reasonable, you can go over fair market rent. Documents can be signed electronically.) The HUD exchange website offers additional guidance.

B. CoC Grant Update

Lynne reported that 7 or 8 people have been referred to the new COC RRH program. She stated that things are moving along and going well. She stated that they are still hoping to hire a second person for the grant. However, the county is under a hiring freeze right now.

C. Project Safe Shelter (PSS); Vidant Foundation Grant

Lynne stated that Greenville Housing Authority has been instrumental in moving people out of Project Safe Shelter. Project Safe Shelter is closed right now. There are no funds to put people in hotel currently. She stated that she reached out to Vidant to see if they have emergency funds, but they do not have any.

E. Coordinated Entry Evaluation/SSO-CE grant

Lynne stated that they just submitted a reimbursement request. Margaret has been busy. She stated that they have had 76 service transactions. Lynne stated they are spending on target with the grant. She stated that they are making good progress and continuing to move people through the system.

Housing Updates

CCC-TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/200%)-Ken stated that they just received 4th quarter funding for the TANF program. Community Crossroads staff is still doing face to face TANF interviews. They assisted 2 families this month. Kim will be taking over in regards to the TANF program. She has been to DSS for training. They are currently on the last quarter of funds. Ken hopes to be approved for a new contract for the upcoming fiscal year.

GHA-Tujuanda stated that they are accepting applications for public housing and PSH. Tujuanda stated that most staff have been working from home. She stated that they have been able to transition 1 family from the shelter into public housing. They will continue to work with Community Crossroads to transfer as many households as possible. GHA is doing initial inspections only right now. KJ stated that staff are reaching out to Senior Living properties to find out what needs are daily. Kim White is triage for the housing authority. Kim is finding out about community needs and doing outreach for GHA. KJ stated that they are partnering with Koinonia and they have been providing food bags. KJ encouraged the group to let him know if you have someone in need of food. He will attempt to assist.

Rapid Rehousing/Pitt County Planning- Deloris reported that they have funds and that they are accepting referrals. Greenville Housing Authority is doing inspections for the Rapid Rehousing Program.

SOAR Updates-Linda stated that she has one client currently.

Trillium Health Resources-All employees are remote currently and we are adjusting to that. We are doing a great deal of outreach currently (to members and providers). We do not have any PSH openings currently.

Mid-East Regional Housing Authority-No updates at this time.

C4FVP-No updates at this time.

Community Crossroads Center-Ken Becker stated that they have 32 residents as of this morning. He stated that they are not currently taking any new admissions (was effective 3/16). They are implementing all CDC and NCCEH guidelines. He stated that they are looking forward to opening back up as soon as they can. He reported that there are no symptomatic residents.

Veterans Activities- No updates at this time.

Pitt County Schools- No updates at this time.

City of Greenville-No updates at this time.

Vocational Rehabilitation-No updates at this time.

AmeriHealth Caritas-No updates at this time.

Miscellaneous-Jim talked with the group about having a weekly call as it relates to the pandemic. He asked if the group was receptive to having a separate call for this. James suggested that we add this to the existing Wednesday meeting. We will incorporate this into the weekly meeting. The meeting conflicts with another call Jim sits on at 100pm with NCCEH regarding COVID 19. He will get on our call after that call and provide updates.

The Bringing it Home Conference has been cancelled.

Margaret stated that Zion Shelter has beds available. Individuals must go to Agape first to get screened and then take the paperwork to Zion when they open at 9:00pm.

Sally stated that she is having her monthly meeting tomorrow at 2:00pm via Zoom.

Next Meeting: May 13, 2020 @ 9:00am

Conference Call