

Aging with Connection and Purpose Workgroup

Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020
Time: 9:00-11:00am
Meeting Leader(s): Caleb Gilbert
Location: Zoom

Agenda

Participants:

Dawn Barnett, Cheryl Kimball, Martha McLeod, Heather Phillips, Sandy Ruka, Marianne Jackson

Carroll County program/initiative updates

- MWV Age-Friendly Community

Resource guide is now available: <https://www.gibsoncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Resource-guide-6-9-20.pdf>. Walkable Trails have been updated: <https://www.gibsoncenter.org/mwv-walkable-trails-by-town/>. RSVP has been thrilled that Age-Friendly initiative of promotion has resulted in many more drivers especially in Freedom and Ossipee. We are excited that Cares Act money will be going to help BroadBand expand to all regions and we can continue telehealth and social connections but we need more computers and equipment training for elders – Exploring possible donations of used IT equipment that can be given to those in need.

We have more capacity for meals to go and meals on wheels at Gibson. HomeShare is sadly on hold until Covid allows personal interviews and placements. Window Dressers (the pine inserts into drafty windows) is also on hold since we can't bring community members together for the build workshops. Maybe this fall.

- MWV Adult Day Center

Pitching ADC openings to reopening task force, awaiting guidance from NH DPHS. Visitation is beginning to resume at LTC facilities, why not allow ADCs to reopen? Still providing services virtually/remotely.

Discussion: Tie the needs of elder services into promoting businesses/economy reopening. Aging in place argument = pro-business (see link to AARP study of older adults' impact on economic growth [here](#)). Loosen up restrictions on Medicaid funds to allow for more spending on aging in place services: Conversation with federal congressional representatives (talk with Chuck, Victoria). Caleb will invite Victoria Laracy to future aging meetings.

- VNHCH of Carroll County & Western Maine

Non-profit funding through CARES act: decided not to apply, did not seem like they are eligible. Gradually resuming, following guidelines/protocols. Never stopped home visits for critical needs. Palliative Care Program: Reconvening formal PC team meetings, exploring specialized PC

programs, focusing on needs of patient populations. (deep psychosocial needs vs. symptom management).

- Gibson Center for Senior Services/Senior Centers in General

Still awaiting guidance from NH DPHS. Seeing lack of progress in being able to establish reopening options. Will continue to advocate for phased reopening options. (enter Marianne's notes). Kudos to volunteers and kitchen staff. To-go, curbside pickup meal options are still available. Please stay tuned FMI.

- Fall Prevention Programs

Fidelity model = unsafe to operate remotely for MoB. Matter of Balance is piloting a virtual option. Memorial is exploring options for convening in-person MoB classes. Huggins rehab is beginning to reopen. Phasing in services that help with balance and fall prevention. Gibson center is still exploring options to hold chair exercise classes outdoors.

- Advanced Care Planning Programs

Established a process for virtual/remote ACP sessions and have had several folks complete Advance Directives. See link to C-TAC information [here](#). Memorial Hospital check-in/registration: question about Advanced Directives is asked, but many do not have it filed or have a physical copy. How can we address this?

- Huggins CHN / Neighborhood

Cheryl will look into broadband funding. Huggins CHN is starting to reengage. Elective surgeries back in operation. Granite One Health and Dartmouth Hitchcock combination process is still moving forward. Screening protocols still in place and likely will remain until vaccine is achieved. Employees are being screened. Cafeteria is closed to community, which is something that the community enjoys.

- ServiceLink of Carroll County

Employees are back in the office (employees are screened before entrance). Still not seeing clients in person. Providing remote services. Monthly one-pagers are disseminated. Zoom meeting for caregivers grant recipients. Resource guide for MWV Age-Friendly is live: <https://www.gibsoncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Resource-guide-6-9-20.pdf>

- Other

Memorial: Chronic Disease self-management, virtual sessions. Stay tuned FMI from Heather Phillips.

State and Regional program/initiative updates:

- NHLA/AHA Advocacy

Working to extend incentive payments for LTC employees. Concerns about data related to LTC deaths related to COVID. LTC stabilization funds – when will decision be made? Request has been sent to Governor. Provider call (link here). CMS Regs – states have to use CARES money to examine LTC protocols. Legislature: House is no longer actively working on House bills – can

concur/non-concur with Senate bills with a simple majority. Senate is moving forward with Omnibus bills. Large prescription bill is progressing. AHA is holding virtual meetings, can provide one for Carroll County. Contact for Broadband issues in NH: Carol Miller carol.miller@livefree.nh.gov. NHLA is working on housing and anticipated housing issues (see housing information below).

- Other

Link to YouTube video documenting COVID's impact on Nursing Homes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrLqj3PWgro#action=share>

Housing Action NH provides this update on funding for housing:

Gov. Sununu has announced the authorization of \$35 million towards a new [Housing Relief Program](#) to assist families and individuals facing housing insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program has two components:

1. *One-time grants for households* that suffered a limited short-term loss of household income or increased expenses that threaten the family's ability to maintain its housing; and
2. *Short-term rental assistance program.*

The Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recover will provide the funds to NH DHHS to go out to our state's Community Action Program (CAP) agencies to administer the new program. [For more information, consult the Program Overview which can be found here.](#) For additional assistance:

- Contacting the local CAP agency: www.CAPNH.org
- Call 2-1-1, <https://www.211nh.org/>, dial 211 from any NH phone, or call 1.866.444.4211
- Contact the DHHS Bureau of Housing Supports, 271-9196, or email dhhs.bhhs@dhhs.nh.gov

SFY 2020 Meeting Schedule: 3rd Wednesdays of each quarter from 9-11am at TCCAP in Tamworth: Sep. 18th, Dec. 18th, Mar. 18th, June 17th.

Upcoming Events: visit our website under "Save the Date" for all upcoming events:

<http://www.c3ph.org/aging-with-connection-and-purpose>