

Chelan-Douglas Coalition for Health Improvement
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2020, 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Introductions and Icebreaker-All

Attendance: See Sign In Sheet

The Charge:

The mission of the Chelan-Douglas Coalition for Health Improvement (“Coalition”) is to foster authentic community engagement, create an ongoing pathway for gathering input from diverse groups of community members, and identify local projects that could support the overall goals of the Medicaid Transformation Project.

North Central Accountable Communities of Health Updates-Brooklyn Holton

- The NCACH staff has moved to being on the incident command system for Covid-19.
- In June, the NCACH Board will have a Board Retreat.
- The response to Covid-19 is to support the community. There is still funding open for Grant and Okanogan counties.

Access to food for the community and supporting local food systems-All

Today, we are going to work on access to nutritional foods and supporting local food systems. Social Determinants of Health usually go hand in hand. So keep in mind how transportation can affect accessing food. We are going to hear updates from Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council, Link Transit and Upper Valley Mend.

Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council

- Right now, Chelan Douglas Community Action Council is looking beyond 30 to 40 days. The National Guard has joined in the food bank efforts. The food banks would not be possible to run without the National Guard at this time. The food banks are receiving large quantities of food. Storage can sometimes become a challenge. There has been steady demand for food.

Link Transit

- Route B on Wednesdays starting at 4:15 takes community members to the Town Toyota Center for food distribution. This is beyond Link Transit’s regular route. For more information, contact Serve Wenatchee at 509-662-1155.

Eastmont School District

- USDA Summer School District Program.
- All Children 18 and younger, however no formula and infant meals.
- The lunches are in the School Buses and adults can pick up if the children are not present unlike the summer program. The food is delivered to each school bus routes.

- Ability for students to pick up for other students. Might have a teenager that has siblings they are looking after.
- Two meals are provided at each pick up.

Upper Valley Mend

- Plenty of food in Leavenworth and Plain.
- Mend at the Cupboard established delivering food boxes. There were 15 requests during the current time of COVID-19. Phone calls for clients have been made to try to increase numbers. It seems as though people are getting what they need. Fire Departments are doing food drop off.

Questions and Answers:

- Is there any promotion or marketing for delivery in Plain and Leavenworth?
 - The information is through public announcement from the Fire Chief, word of mouth and social media. The Fire Department has the list of people.

Transportation: Link Transit is providing no fare right now for essential services. Ridership has decreased. The need will increase the more changes will happen.

Breakout Groups

Thank you for the updates. One need and idea that has come up is to help those at high risk of COVID-19 to receive food. There has been movement trying to find a solution for food to be delivered to those who are unable or feel comfortable leaving their household. There has been movement trying to find a solution for food to be delivered to those who are unable to leave their households due to the Pandemic. There is not a concrete plan.

What if the coalition was able to find a solution to have food bank boxes delivered to those at high risk? Those at high risk are not only those above 60 years old. Not everyone with underlying conditions and chronic diseases are in that age category. Also, thinking about those with mental illness who may not want to leave their house at this time. Parents may not feel comfortable taking children in public at this time too.

We will be moving into breakout groups to discuss how the coalition can help our community receive food. In your groups think of creative and innovative ways. After the breakout sessions we will come back as a large group and continue the conversation.

Breakout Group Number 1:

- All and all, it seems that people are accessing food within the Wenatchee area.
- Eastmont School District has made additional food stops to outer lying communities providing the same amounts of food, but only 2 deliveries/week.
- Alan states that a food home delivery system for disabled and shut-ins has been in place for a while (prior to COVID) and is continuing it's routes.
- Also, Alan said that one person may pick up numerous food boxes for friends and neighbors.
- A missed opportunity of outreach is within the Wenatchee Valley College students. There are individuals and families who may definitely need food services, but either don't know how to access the food; or think others might be worse off than them. An easy way to reach students is

through their emails. Contacting administration about having an email posting with information on how and where to access food at local Food Pantries would get the word out.

- We all agreed that due to the current economic stimulus packages, increase in SNAP food insecurity has been decreased. But..over the next few months these needs might increase. Plans need to consider this.
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Breakout Group Number 2:

- Kristi shared an idea of setting up a phone line that community members in need of food can contact. Shared that perhaps Chelan/Douglas Community Action Council has capacity to handle phone calls and compile a delivery list with the community members address/contact information. Goal would be to compile a delivery route for someone to do deliveries. Along with the phone line, can use Facebook pages or messages (something that doesn't use minutes). Phone calls may be preferred by senior community members. Multiple options to cast a wider net but would increase administrative oversight responsibility.
 - Question from Jennifer, does not see as much demand in Leavenworth (as located there) so wondering if the need in Wenatchee is increasing? Kristi shared an initial increased demand from homebound seniors but has tapered off.
 - Kristi has already done several food box drop-offs. Perhaps can load up a vehicle and deliver to needed areas. Shared Lighthouse, Senior Center, and Mobile Wheels do deliveries.
 - Input from Jerry, perhaps can circle back with Chelan/Douglas CHI members and see what need their clients are experiencing.
 - Input from Goose, shared saw door hangers that neighbors could put on their neighbor's door asking how they were doing and if they needed help. Perhaps a way for community members to report if a neighbor needs an essential food delivery.
 - Discussion around using a volunteer run model. Once you have a phone line setup and have addresses to deliver, you can put out in the community there is a volunteer opportunity. Would need to provide PPE and some safety training. But some challenges include volunteers have their own needs and may not always be able to make their shift. Perhaps can include vouchers for fuel/mileage if they provide their own vehicle if funds are available.
 - Perhaps a next step is identifying what the true home delivery needs is to get a better sense of what responsibilities remain.
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Breakout Room Group 3:

Gap is access

Questions

- How to deliver food?
- Eligibility requirements? No verification – honor system?
- What is going on in the outlining areas? What is Orondo doing? Waterville? Mansfield? – What kind of food access do they have?
- Transportation issue?

WHO:

- Who is our population? Hard to get a hold of people. Texting people is best.
- Outlining areas having the most need?
- Open it up to everyone

HOW:

- Social media promotion
- Text from Chelan-Douglas Emergency management to a central site
- Food bank Facebook pages – look at followers and compare users to better understand reach
- Use images and videos to share message not words

WHERE:

- Vehicles transport food to distribution
- Fleet of smaller vehicles to bring food out to make it closer
- Use park nearby as distribution sites
- Play off the Eastmont SD bus idea
- Food distribution at the large employers?

Breakout Room Group 4:

- Faith based volunteers with vehicles Michael Malmin – can provide and have administrative folks and people who have background don't want to be out and about but couldn't meet people face to face.
- The thing that the church has been looking to do. Have the capacity for volunteers who would like to provide some administrative support.
- Other oxford house volunteer program to use volunteers to
- Renee – Entiat small business have the grocery store and big part of the community. Have a group of volunteers willing. Volunteer base need has been dwindling. Dropped off and handed to the guard mostly the need is the food bank is fluctuating with food stamps people are refusing boxes.
- How do we reach other communities?
- What is this going to look like in a couple months or a year?
- This will be a multiyear situation. The expectation is that we cannot move into normal life, what are the impacts of these budgets and how to plan for the future and what will the impacts be.
- Putting money away. State agencies preparing for 2-4 years of impact.

Breakout Room Group 5:

- Max from DOT and I (Maggie Kaminoff) were the only people in our group. Nanine had to take a phone call. Our conversation didn't yield much, but I am touching base with Kristi to investigate how Link may be able to participate. Max stated DOT would not be an appropriate participant due to all funding having been frozen and food banks aren't their area of expertise. But...
- As you know, right now we are not charging fares. Some of the ideas I had were to provide information regarding Link transportation service at the food sites, putting information in each person's bag/box. We have shared this information before, but I think it needs to be in people's faces to realize it. Riders are also allowed to have a carry on size cart, in which groceries can be carried.
- I am working with Kristi to get a better idea of which routes coincide with food banks. Once I have all the information together I will forward to you to distribute to CHI members. Kristi & I will also work with Link management to see if any special or deviated routes can be used to help get people to food banks.

Large Group Discussion:

- Link Transit may be available to work with Chelan Douglas Community Action Council to make sure that routes go to food bank locations. Link Transit is taking action for protection and social distancing, along with drivers making sure the buses are clean.
- Faith based organizations: Church could help deliver food and has volunteers under the age of 59. The churches have vehicles that can be used.
- Could the CHI hear from Wenatchee Valley College and how COVID-19 is affecting the students?
- Needs seem to be met at this time. There may be more of a need further down the road.
- Volunteer models have certain challenges such as being thoughtful during recruitment and reliability.
 - There is a lack of knowledge if there is a need. How are we going to deliver to food? Should we ask what the need really is? How do you screen to make sure that there is a need. Coordination of services? Possibly Community Action Council can be the point organization for deliveries.
- Mental health: Some people are having a hard time because they do not know what is available during this time.
- Access to services will be needed more now. Some people who have never been in the situation of needing services may not know how to navigate. There is no one door and I do not know how to ask for help. It is important to reduce stigma for those that need help. There may be some people who have never been in the current financial situation, so it may be hard to ask for help.
- Rely on stakeholders and community members to say what the needs of the community are. MCOs could maybe help with connections.

Action: Chelan-Douglas CHI Leadership Council will create community member and care coordinator/case manager surveys.

Thank you for attending the Chelan-Douglas Coalition for Health Improvement meeting.

Meeting adjourned