

Chelan-Douglas Coalition for Health Improvement  
Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2020, 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Introductions and Icebreaker-All

Attendance: See Sign In Sheet

The Charge of the CHI:

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 Board Update-Brooklyn Holton

The June Board Meeting was cancelled, but there was a retreat.

- Discussed the long term and sustainability of the NCACH.
- The board is clinic heavy, but is looking at what clinical and non-clinical collaboration looks like in the region.
- The Board meetings are open to the public..
- The NCACH are moving away from COVID response and going back to focusing on workgroups.
- At the Leadership Council level, there are discussions around what the CHI Community Initiative funding will look like.

Summary of May CHI meeting-Kelsey Gust

- At the May CHI meeting, we heard updates from Link Transit, Chelan-Douglas Community Action Council and Upper Valley Mend. We moved into conversation about COVID-19 affecting access to food for those at high risk and not wanting to leave their households. An idea was to help get food bank boxes delivered through a volunteer model. It was decided that there needs to be more data around this topic and overall on food insecurity in the two counties.
- The Leadership Council listened to the feedback and two surveys have been developed, but not released yet. We will update when the surveys are released and data is gathered.
- Maggie Kaminoff from Link Transit wanted to make sure the Link Transit routes were available for those going to and from food banks in the two counties. So a document was created. Maggie spoke about the document.

Link Transit Update-Maggie Kaminoff

- After the last CHI meeting, a document was created regarding the routes to and from food banks in Chelan and Douglas counties. Feel free to call Link Transit for help regarding routes.
- Currently, the fare to ride is at \$ 0 potentially for the next months for the community to be able to access the essentials. Riders to have masks on and be spaced out.
- At food distribution sites the food boxes have not been a problem on the buses. have boxes. Travel training is still available. On July 6, there will be increased routes.

### Updates-Garden Terrace, Wenatchee Valley College and United First Methodist Church

Now we are going to hear updates regarding access to food from Garden Terrace, Wenatchee Valley College and First United Methodist Church.

#### **Garden Terrace:**

- Delivered meals to the rooms and bags of food on Fridays the last two months. Collected rice, beans and lentils for residents. Since it is an Independent living facility, some are having family members go to Safeway to get food to fill the gaps.
- Donations: Put in a scholarship program for low to very low income. They can get help from scholarships. Garden Terrace has a pantry with toothpaste, canned foods, etc.

#### **Wenatchee Valley College:**

- Students can pick up food boxes 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM open on Wednesday. People are also able to donate canned foods then. About 14 students have been picking up food boxes each week.

#### **First United Methodist Church:**

- Had a small food bank but decided to move food outside to create a little pantry to help fill in the gap. So far, the little pantry has been very successful. The hope is for more churches or businesses to start these essential pantries throughout the two counties and different neighborhoods. There are different reasons people come to get the food. There is a need for donation of rice and beans. Also, baby food goes quickly and donations are needed. Since the pantry is outside all food is non-perishable.

### Role of the CHI: Food Insecurity-Kelsey Gust and Kaitlin Quirk

#### **Food Insecurity and Food Desert**

- There are organizations working on minimizing food insecurity over the counties. But food insecurity is still occurring where we live. The coalition needs to think about more than acute and long-term, but where are the gaps?

Since data was needed to move forward we will review local data around food insecurity and food deserts.

- USDA: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas/>
  - Shows at least 500 people or 33% of the population lives more than ½ mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket. Demonstrates those who live in a food desert.
- 211 Counts: <https://wa.211counts.org/#>
  - From Washington2-1-1 this shows 7.8% of top requests were food. Of the food requests 81.1% was for help to buy food, meaning vouchers, financial support to buy food such as SNAP and WIC.
- Feeding America:  
<https://www.feedingamericaaction.org/the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-food-insecurity/>

- Before COVID-19 food insecurity in the US was at the lowest point since the great recession. Yet more than 37 million people including more than 11 million children were food insecure. Currently, the pandemic has reversed the improvements and now more than 54 million people including 18 million children may experience food insecurity because of COVID-19.

From hearing the data and updates we would like the attendees to go into small groups and keep the dialogue going. There are organizations doing work around food insecurity. The CHI does not want to duplicate efforts, but prompt collaboration and lend support to organizations. In the breakout rooms groups need to keep in mind the acute and long-term effects of COVID-19. In the next couple months there could be an increase of people needing help accessing food

#### **Breakout room discussions:**

- Keep in mind, the acute and long-term effects of COVID-19 around access to food.
- Who does the CHI need to connect with?
- Are there any gaps (project, programs or event) that the CHI could partner on to help increase food security?

#### **Breakout Group 1:**

- Keep in mind, the acute and long-term effects of COVID-19 around access to food.
- Who does the CHI need to connect with?
- Are there any gaps (project, programs or event) that the CHI could partner on to help increase food security?

#### **RESPONSES**

- Difficulty not just getting food, but getting the RIGHT food - both nutritionally complete but also culturally appropriate. Stuff that's nourishing and people will actually eat.
- Do people know about existing options? Is it being adequately communicated?
- Outreach to LEP populations - are food banks and other food assistance options well known among people with limited english proficiency?
  - Anecdotaly, Rock Island food bank serves lots of agricultural workers during fruit season, indicating that word is reaching this audience
- *Our Valley Our Future* outreach to Spanish speaking audience
- Is there a need for storage that CHI could help with?
  - This came up for our group as well and the thought around the older concept of renting a meat locker came up. Are there spaces or facilities that are connected to places of frequency (post office, library, clinic, etc.) that could increase ease of access for those that need storage options.
  - Frozen foods are a sticking point due to limited storage space
  - Perishable foods are also an issue for those experiencing homelessness because they don't have space or a secure place to head back to. Their perishable food access is similar to hot food options in that they must show up at a certain time/place and enjoy what they can for a short term.

- Socialization element - elderly patrons use food pantries and other resources for social interaction as well as nourishment
- I really like the idea of the CHI being a resource for food/resource gathering. Doing our own organizational support or food-drive each month.
- Gleaning programs - are we collecting fresh foods?
  - Growers are very fastidious about who they allow on their property, only letting trusted people in
- Maggie shared information about the Stuff the Bus event Link is hosting. A pickup location at the Wenatchee and East Wenatchee Grocery Outlet.
  - Stuff the Bus involves a lot of different partners - LinkTransit, CDCAC, Serve Wenatchee, Grocery Outlet, Rotary
  - Want to challenge other businesses to do the same (i.e. gather non-perishable food)
- Discussed what are the food needs for smaller communities such as Leavenworth.
  - Can we connect small-town resources together for food access. Such as a food bank system within each community so people don't have to rely on 1/12 in the region.
- Discussed perhaps getting more information/clarity if the Hispanic/Latino communities are accessing the food banks.
- Potential CHI connections
  - Churches
  - Spanish speaking community
  - Aging and Adult Care
  - Clinics
  - Libraries
  - Community members
  - Post Office

Our thoughts above but here are the raw notes:

PARTNERS:

Bartering between Garden Terrace & the Church

- Does this type of facilitation happen in other environments?
- The church was able to quickly pull it together --- how can more churches replicate that because there are more of them in neighborhoods than other organization types
  - Food bank system for each community
  - Little Free Library but for food

Can the food banks rethink distribution in the long-term

- Coordinate with the mini pantries that have non-perishable through the week and have perishables brought out once a week
- ACCESS ACCESS ACCESS

What's available for those experiencing homelessness to go to the foodbank and then bring it to a place of no storage or even not able to have perishable foods

Food storage: is this something that we need to look at supporting these gap needs

In addition to public libraries, post office and clinics

## **Breakout Group 2:**

- Keep in mind, the acute and long-term effects of COVID-19 around access to food.

- Who does the CHI need to connect with?
- Are there any gaps (project, programs or event) that the CHI could partner on to help increase food security?

Who does the CHI need to connect with?

- farmworker and large agriculture providers, farmworker camps
- Reaching out to the companies, cvch, or worksource to connect with the camps

Are there any gaps (project, programs or event) that the CHI could partner on to help increase food security?

Stigma to the food bank people feel ashamed to use the food bank that they don't need the help.

How do we become more neighborhood central to improve access. How do we know that we are addressing the true needs of the community. How can we improve access for vulnerable communities who live too far away from affordable transportation

What is the response for the farmworker community? Small pantries at farm worker camps give the community the access to food and they can coordinate it.

Grant County has been going to Othello – Hatem? PFP deliver the boxes for them

Who can we reach out to get a bus to go to the farm worker camps to pick up food boxes for their own camps

### **Breakout Group 3:**

- Keep in mind, the acute and long-term effects of COVID-19 around access to food.
- Who does the CHI need to connect with?
- Are there any gaps (project, programs or event) that the CHI could partner on to help increase food security?

Food banks getting the right food like baby food. Culturally appropriate food agriculturally. Who has good success in agriculture and underserved communities. Communication: Our Valley Our Future.

What services does the food bank supply? Food bank to get up and social life. Assess that factor.

Gleeing programs-collected unused agricultural foods can be scalable. Upper Valley Mend has a Gleeing program and goes to the food bank and shares. Private land and someone will pick them. Discussion about Stuff the Bus event. Question for Garden Terrace: Stuff the pantry. We could gather for smaller organizations. WE as a CHI could help on a small level. Maybe a better need for.

Cleaning supplies, toothpaste, lotions-MCOs can donate to different organizations and can help.

Does Wenatchee have a gleeing program? Wenatchee valley market will coordinate with the food bank. Starting to coordinate with Upper Valley Mend. Trying to coordinate it that way.

Farm worker camps: CVCH and WorkSource. Food bank boxes that have been hit the hardest with COVID-19. Partnership with those going out there. Neighborhood central. How can we expect the older population to carry a box. How can we better address the needs of the community. People for People: Picking up 27 boxes to Othello that could replicate. Give them ownership of it. Essential pantry type thing. Help them, help them.

**Large group discussion:**

We appreciate being able to have the conversation and allow other partners to be a part of it. Can we partner with the churches and have each community have a small food bank? Sometimes people need non-perishable foods on a local level.

Thank you for attending the Chelan-Douglas CHI meeting.

Meeting Adjourned