

This document includes notes from both our updates, conversation and from the Chat feature of the PHC Partner Meeting WebEx (May 15, 2020). Notes are in no particular order.

Thanks so much to those of you able to join us this morning. I think we had about 50 people on the WebEx, though I can't be certain of this. Either way, a very good meeting. Here are notes, comments, and resources shared during the meeting:

Barbara Farnsworth introduced two new Dartmouth Hitchcock Community Health staff members tasked to Upper Valley Public Health Region work:

- Andrea Smith, Substance Misuse Prevention Coordinator
- Nenia Corcoran, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
- [Regie Cooper](#) has also joined the Dartmouth Hitchcock Community Health team as a Program Manager, and has been supporting Upper Valley Strong since she started in early March.

COVID-19 Emergency Response Update:

- Nenia provided an update on cases, testing, and available resources. Please see her report attached (**EP Update for 51520**), with a few edits to reflect Rudy Fedrizzi's Vermont updates. Rudy also mentioned that Vermont is developing some new outreach approaches for people who are housing insecure. See also the poster with details about NH testing (**COVID Testing Poster (002)**).
- Please note relative to testing, from Nenia: Anyone who lives **OR** works in NH can be tested at the NH sites. Something to keep in mind since VT's testing sites are filling up.

Upper Valley Strong Updates:

- www.uvstrong.org Link to UV Strong website for lots of resources. Please let them know if there is anything missing.
- Barbara provided a brief summary that 45+ organizations are working together to share resources, staff, and information. Funds given to UVS to support organizations as they change to respond to new needs have supported over \$60,000 in grants to date.
- Food Committee: Supporting many food shelves across the region. Willing Hands has received some USDA funding to increase access to some food purchases.
- MOAH (Maintaining Older Adult Health): Kathleen Vasconcelos shared that this committee is allowing many organizations serving older adults to serve people better. Increasing demand for Meals on Wheels. Providing masks for senior housing. Trying to support volunteer driver programs as they get going again.
- Childcare: Angie LeDuc shared that their help line (Operation Upper Valley Childcare) has gone off-line due to low demand, but they have the ability to start up again if the demand increases. Mentioned the support provided by the [Early Education and Care Association](#).
 - UV Strong Child Care Committee meets every other Wednesday at 1 pm. Next meeting is 5/20. Please email Angie.M.Raymond.Leduc@hitchcock.org if you would like to be on the committee.
- Family Supports: Hilary Schuler shared some of the work of the Family Supports committee. Includes:
 - Cell Phones are available for people who need them. Requests can be made to [Angie Zhang](#), Listen, from organizational contacts, not from individuals.

- Volunteers: Elizabeth Craib shared that there are a large number of people in the UVS volunteer database. The committee is also discussing how to support training and ensuring safety of volunteers.
- Transportation: Regie reported that there are volunteer drivers available.
- Housing: Bryan L'Heureux spoke about the work of the Housing Committee to support people who are housing insecure.

Sharing from Partners:

From Hilary Davis, VNH:

The VNH is coordinating with DHMC and others to develop a more intensive in-home rehabilitation capability so that some people may be able to avoid nursing home rehabilitation stays, where risks are higher.

From Meghan Butts, Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission:

They are working hard to ensure robust communication with their municipal partners and especially between municipal governments and their residents, to increase resident participation in decision making during this period.

From Carol A. Sarazin and Geraldine Fowler:

Woodstock (VT) has the [Woodstock Area Relief Fund](#); telephone is 802-281-9902. Geraldine Fowler is one of the organizers and case managers; she is happy to talk with anyone who has questions and can be reached at office@northchapelvt.org. Geraldine reports that are able to make grants of up to \$1,000 (\$1,500 for larger families) to help with household expenses for people living within the Woodstock School District.

From Courtney McKaig:

[Windsor Area Crisis Relief Team](#)

From Karry Lahaye at Alice Peck Day Primary Care:

I have an overwhelming number of patients with dental needs (extractions) with no ability to pay due to finances/unemployment and no insurance. Are there more town resources for this type of service?

- Dana Michalovic responded that Good Neighbor Health Center and Red Logan Dental Clinic are able to provide case management for people needing emergency care.
- Dana also added that Good Neighbor Health Clinic is pivoting to provide more telehealth and will cheerfully take on new patients.
- Mascoma Community Health Center is providing emergency dental care.
- Elizabeth Craib offered that the Granite United Way Emergency funds being managed by [Jennifer Fontaine](#) at The Haven might be used to support people who have emergency dental care needs. These requests must come from organizational partners on behalf of individuals.
- Wendi Grant offered that Area Agencies on Aging might have some funding resources for dental emergencies.

From Susan Wnuk:

- See link to USDA Press Release below regarding school meals and approval for NH. Apparently, families receiving SNAP and with children eligible for Free and Reduced Meals will receive \$5.50 per day per child on their EBT cards. This is retroactive to March 16th, 2020..

- [Pandemic EBT to Feed Children during COVID-19 National Emergency](#)
- (Washington, D.C., May 14, 2020) – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced New Hampshire has been approved to operate Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT), a new program authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), signed by President Trump, which provides assistance to families of children eligible for free or reduced-price meals dealing with school closures.
- Also, relative to summer meals: [USDA Extends Flexibilities, Paves the Way for Meals for Kids to Continue through Summer](#)
- Susan also reports they continue to support WIC clients by phone and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program continues to deliver boxes of food to eligible seniors. They are currently dropping the boxes without making contact with the recipients.

Meals on Wheels Updates:

Both Carol Stamatakis and Kathleen Vasconcelos shared that Meals on Wheels eligibility has expanded in both states to serve anyone over aged 60 who is isolating. Wendi Grant adds that caregivers and spouses of people eligible for MOWs are also eligible for meals.

- For Vermont, call the helpline at 802-885-2669.
- For New Hampshire, contact the Upper Valley Senior Center at 603-448-4213.

From Tracey Hayes:

A Silver Lining - Youth groups are going well. Youth are looking for things to do. There are 3 weeks left in school. Many youth will be involved with summer camps. Youth in general are very comfortable online and with social media and can be great resources/ volunteers for community support. For more: traceyhayeswarren@gmail.com with the Norwich Prevention Network. She encourages people to reach out to youth for help.

From Laura Rice, WISE:

WISE has set up a Web Chat capability to allow people to reach out for help when they cannot talk by telephone. People can also use texting to get support. They have seen an increased use of the crisis line. They have also done outreach to some area police departments to see how they can support them as they have responded to an increase in cases.

From Martha Tecca:

Relative to Laura Rice's (WISE) comments about current activities and reports of increases in domestic violence, she says she has not heard of increased violence in Lyme, but has heard reports of families breaking up, which adds to the need for a variety of resource and emotional support.

From Mike Cryans, NH District 1 Executive Councilor:

He has been spending a great deal of time helping people having trouble with unemployment claims. In the week prior to the COVID-19 emergency declaration, there were 500 new unemployment applications; in the 7 weeks since, there have been 150,000. Please contact Mike for help with these claims and issues relating to other state agencies and benefit requests. He can be reached at 603-443-1901.

From Stacey Chiocchio, Hypertherm:

Next week, she is convening a meeting of the businesses in the area that support paid volunteer time and the region's volunteer coordinators to discuss how to continue promoting volunteerism safely and

support local response efforts. Amber Johnstone, from The Haven, will join the meeting to talk about how The Haven has adjusted the use of volunteers. Amber can also talk about what UV Strong is doing with, and in support of, volunteers.

From Hope Duncan, West Central Behavioral Health:

They are providing nearly all of their services via telehealth now, though some services still need to be delivered in the community. They are still able to serve people who are in crisis.

- She also mentioned that she is part of the UV Mask Makers and they have a system for taking requests for masks. To request masks for an organization or business, please use this form: <https://forms.gle/C35u2MRsKwJRgu858>

From Angie Leduc:

UV Mask Makers are talking about making a bank of kid sized masks for school/summer programming. My friend Honor who started the group would love feedback if that should be a focus...

- Regie reports that skida is making children's masks for a price. Perhaps they can help with patterns for children's sized masks?
- Courtney McKaig says, "Yes. Masks please. This is a way to help programs move forward. Jill Lord is organizing a meeting between Recreation/Summer Camps and the health system to learn how we can support/collaborate this very important need.

From Martha Tecca, Community Care of Lyme:

- Should we do these meetings more frequently right now? It's been very helpful to hear about what is going on.
 - Regie and others suggested that partners are welcome to join the bi-weekly Upper Valley Strong calls. They happen every other Tuesday from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm. The next one will be on May 26th. Please contact [Regie](#) to be added to the email notification list.
- She also brings up the notion that, as businesses begin to open up again, we should be thinking about ways to pay them for doing what they do instead of always relying on volunteers.