Healthy Ulster Council
Meeting Notes
September 10, 2020

Attendees:

Myrna Capaldi (Health insurance through NYS marketplace navigation and information), Christina Carranceja (IFH), Courtney Churchill (CCEUC), Dona Crawford (CCEUC), Wendy Detwiler (JFS), Emily Flynn (City of Kingston, NY), Keith Gurgui (Resource Center for Accessible Living, Inc.), Linnette Vargas Gonzalez (Maternal Infant Services Network), Hillary Harvey (Ulster County Innovation Team of the Ulster County Executive), Melinda Herzog (CCEUC), Colleen Jones (Mid-Hudson Problem Gambling Resource Center), Alexandra Julson (Ulster County Restorative Justice), Jessica Kenneda (Tobacco Free Action Communities), Kristin Kessler (ShopRite), Tara Kleinhans (CCE Ulster), Stacy Kraft (Ulster County Department of Health and Mental Health), Liz Lee (Veritas Villa), Geneva May(MISN), Vin Martello (Ulster County Department of Health and Mental Health), Thomas McCarry (The Institute for Family Health), Nohan Mez (La Voz), Christine Noble (Ulster County Office for the Aging), Melanie Penalosa (Mental Health Association in Ulster County, Inc.), Giovanna Rogow (MISN), Anna Schupack (Bard Center for Civic Engagement), Sophia Sciacca (Hudson Valley Hospice),Katie Sheehan-Lopez (CCEUC), Ruth Stratton (Fidelis Care), Erik VanGaasbeek (People USA)

Introduction:
Melinda Herzog Introduces HUC, as well as co-hosts Stacy Kraft (UCDOH&MH), Vincent Martello (UCDOH&MH) and Katie Sheehan Lopez (CCEUC) and reviews Zoom Meeting Protocols.

Presentations:
   A. "Making Every Moment Count-Overview of Hudson Valley Hospice Services" presented by Sophia Sciacca; Provider Relations Representative at Hudson Valley Hospice.

Hudson Valley Hospice has served Dutchess and Ulster Counties for 35 years. Hospice services provides value to the recipient, family, and care givers. Hospice is much more than the last few weeks or days of life. HV Hospice provides palliative and hospice care to anyone of any age, even newborns that has any life limiting illness when no cure is possible (not just end-stage). Hospice care can be provided in any location: private homes, nursing home, assisted living, group homes, hospitals.

Hospice care services the whole family and can cover meds, equipment, oxygen, therapies, etc. Insurance, Medicaid, and hospice foundation can cover the costs of hospice care.

B. "COVID Testing in Ulster County" presented by Hillary Harvey; Ulster County Innovation Team

UC Recovery Service Center is an evolution of the UC COVID-19 Hotline. The service center addresses the various needs of the County as the pandemic progresses. The service center operates Monday 8am-7pm, Tuesday-Thursday 8am-5pm, and Friday 8am-7pm. Call 845-443-8888 for more information. The majority of the calls they get are about testing, but they will help with anything regarding COVID-19 and if they don't have an answer they will do the research and get back to the caller.

Hillary covered some testing basics in her presentation

- Diagnostic Testing Vs. Antibody Testing

Diagnostic Testing is a molecular test done by a nasal swab. These tests can be done by a doctor, laboratory technician, or pharmacy. These test results are reported to the State and local health departments. It is important to note that "Rapid Tests" are not being reported to the State and local health department.

Antibody Testing is a blood test. A positive results indicates a past infection, cannot tell if the person is currently infected. No one is sure currently how long the antibodies will last and if it will protect against future infection.

- COVID Testing Sites

Each site has its own requirements and operations. The Recovery Center can help navigate which site will work best for the caller, providing information such as which sites require an appointment or prescriptions, insurance vs non insurance, if the site is Spanish speaking, and what sites are doing child testing.

- Test Results

The turnaround on test results varies bases on the test site, lab capacity, and demand.

C. "Get Out the Census" Presented by Tara Kleinhans; PR& Development Manager at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

The census deadline has been extended to September 30, 2020. The census only takes 10 minutes and guides the federal funding for schools, parks, non-profits, and the states' representation in the government.

- The census is able to be done via phone, online, or mail
- The answers are anonymous
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- The census never asks for citizenship status, social security numbers, money, or bank/credit card info.
- As of 9/10/2020 Ulster County has only done around 60%, the County would like that to be higher.

    I.   Movement Break: "Stand up and Stretch" Presented by Melinda Herzog

D. Facilitated Networking Session

- Myrna Capaldi (Health insurance through New York State marketplace navigation and information)-gave overview of program
- Courtney Churchill (CCEUC)- Ag department of CCE is providing farmers in need with masks and sanitizer to keep their workers safe
- Wendy Detwiler (JFS)-gave overview of program
- Keith Gurgui (Resource Center for Accessible Living, Inc.)-gave overview of program
- Linnette Vargas Gonzalez (Maternal Infant Services Network)-Baby Café starting again, contact for more info
- Colleen Jones (Mid- Hudson Problem Gambling Resource Center)- Annual Conference will be virtual on Oct 8th and 9th, 2020
- Jessica Kenneda (Tobacco Free Action Communities)-gave overview of program
- Stacy Kraft (Ulster County Department of Health and Mental Health)-Healthy Ulster Radio program needs quest speakers, contact Stacy if you are interested.
- Liz Lee (Veritas Villa)-gave overview of program
- Geneva May(MISN)-gave overview of program
- Vin Martello (Ulster County Department of Health and Mental Health)-Opioid epidemic and suicide rates are on the rise in UC surround the COVID 19 pandemic, UCDHMH is doing what they can to do outreach
- Nohan Mez (La Voz)-gave overview of La Voz magazine
- Christine Noble (Ulster County Office for the Aging)-Providing seniors in need with farmers market coupon books; classes are still being held on- line.
- Melanie Penalosa (Mental Health Association in Ulster County, Inc.)-Support groups are being held via zoom.
- Katie Sheehan-Lopez (CCE UC)-gave overview of SNAP-Ed program
- Sophia Sciacca (Hudson Valley Hospice)-Hospice also provides grief and bereavement support groups

Next Meeting November 12, 2020, 2:00pm-3:30pm via zoom.