Community Provider Strategy Team (CPST)

Information Session Notes

April 20, 2023

1. **Welcome and Agenda Overview – Sarah Allen, NCS**
2. Sarah gave a recap about the CPST and its history. The team started on April 2, 2020, and has been full steam ahead for 3 years now. While the focus of the group is moving away from the urgency of the health concerns of COVID-19, there are other social and economic concerns that still exist and are arising every day. Chris Leonard has given his support and encouragement to CPST and sees the need for the group to continue meeting and sharing information.
3. Sarah announced that she and Elisa Matos will be stepping aside from the team and Patricia Arriaza will begin leading the meetings going forward. Please reach out to Patricia with any ideas for future meeting topics.
4. **ARPA Trauma-Informed Spaces mini-grants -Chrissy Cunningham, NCS**
	1. The Trauma-Informed Community Network (TICN) has received ARPA funding for community-based organizations to help make their spaces more trauma-informed. The maximum total request for each organization is $5,000.
	2. The goal of these mini grants is to create spaces that have a welcoming and calm vibe for both the people being served and the staff who work at these organizations. Past examples of improvements made include a Zen Garden at a CSB site and a welcome area at a local food pantry. Some pictures and examples of trauma-informed space improvements can be found [here](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/sites/neighborhood-community-services/files/assets/documents/prevention/trauma-informed%20community%20network/trauma%20informed%20spaces%20od%20webinar%20slides_2022.pdf).
	3. The **deadline** to submit a grant application is **Friday,** **May 12, 2023, at 5pm.**
	4. A webinar about the program, funding guidelines, and the application link can all be found on the [TICN website](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/prevention/trauma-informed-community-network/grant).
	5. Hallie Jackson manages the program and can provide proposal development guidance as well as suggestions and inspiration for making the space improvements. Hallie’s work days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday and can be reached via email: hallie.jackson@fairfaxcounty.gov
5. **Department of Family Services– Patty Araujo, Public Assistance and Employment Services (PAES) and Wes Garit, Self-Sufficiency**
	1. Patty shared that staff in PAES are currently in the process of sending out Medicaid renewals to recipients. She explained how to use the renewal calendar to determine when the renewals will go out. If anyone has questions about the process, they can call **COVERVA**: **1-833-5CALLVA** or the **DFS customer call center**: **703-324-7500**.An important thing to remember is that not everyone will get their renewal notices at the same time, but you can reassure clients that they will receive them. The two best ways to renew are either file by phone or go online because the recipient will receive immediate confirmation of the renewal. However, the state will still send paper renewals to everyone.
	2. Unfortunately, there have been some new Medicaid scams circulating in the community in addition to the recent EBT cards scams. People have been receiving messages telling them they must pay a certain amount of money before they can receive their Medicaid coverage.
	3. The 6-month work requirement connected to SNAP had been paused during the COVID-19 pandemic, but it will return on **July 1st, 2023.** However, there will not be any impact for clients until the end of the year. Patty shared a copy of the letter SNAP recipients will be receiving. There is a list of exemptions included in the letter and she encourages clients to look through the list to see if they qualify for any exemptions and return the survey to PAES.
	4. The SNAP Emergency Allotments ended in March which means there has been a $95 reduction of benefits. Patty encouraged everyone to remind their clients who receive SNAP benefits to take advantage of the [Virginia Fresh Match program](https://vfm.leapforlocalfood.org/) at local farmers markets. The program matches up to $20 so people can buy $40 worth of food at the markets for half the price.
	5. There have been some delays in sending out the new Cardinal Care and MCO FAMIS cards. They will be sent as soon as possible, but in the meantime, some cards will have the new logo, and some will be the older versions. Patty shared the advice that she tells everyone to take all their cards with them when they are going to a doctor’s appointment or to the hospital. Both the old and the new cards are accepted by Medicaid providers. An example of the new card can be found [here](https://dmas.virginia.gov/media/5549/member-flyer-final-sample-id-cards.pdf).
	6. Patty shared that PAES is in the process of unwinding (returning to normal Medicaid processing) and she gave out her contact information if anyone in the CPST has questions about this or anything she discussed today. You can reach her by email at patricia.araujo@fairfaxcounty.gov and her office phone number is **703-324-7864**.
	7. Wes Garit shared that he and Nancy Cordova are continuing to educate clients on how to provide Family Services with any updates on their cases and to renew their benefits. While there has been an increase in person assistance in the office, they are still encouraging clients to use Assistance from a Distance methods. Their goal is to remove the transportation barrier and make it easier for clients to contact the department.
6. **Health Department Update- Carrie Cannon, Health Department**
	1. There has been a downward trend for COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses, however, there has been an increase in Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) numbers. The health department has STI prevention outreach resources available, and you can contact Carrie if interested.
	2. The Public Health Emergency Declaration ends on May 11, 2023. The Health Department will update their website with more information prior to the declaration ending.
	3. The FDA and CDC have issued new recommendations for adults aged 65 plus and individuals who are immunocompromised to receive a second dose of the bivalent COVID-19booster.
	4. The Health Department is still providing COVID-19 tests and vaccines in the district office clinics. Anyone who needs one or both may call the **Fairfax County Call Center** at **703-267-3511**.
	5. Opioid and Fentanyl overdoses continue to increase. There have been 97 non-fatal overdoses to date compared to 60 at this point in 2022. The Health Department updates their [dashboard](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/opioid-overdoses-data) monthly as an information resource for the community. Carrie noted there can be a lag in the fatal overdose numbers as that information comes from the state and there can be delays in confirming those cases.
	6. The Health Department no longer requires masking except in the case of illness, a positive COVID-19 test or COVID-19 exposure and for all individuals with weakened immune systems.
7. **Coordinated Services Planning – Aimee Garcia**
	1. CSP is continuing to work with the community around urgent needs during the COVID-19 recovery phase. The biggest needs are housing assistance, emergency food assistance and utility assistance. Fairfax County has received a generous amount of funding to support our community members and will continue to provide access to services and assistance as needed.
8. **Community Impact Unit – Michelle Thompson**
	1. The Emergency Food Strategy Team (EFST) recently held its first in-person meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic started. It was a forum for everyone to share strategies and they unveiled the mapping of food distribution. The mapping is still in progress. Their overall goal is to provide equitable access to food and be responsive to community needs. The EFST meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 3p.m.-4:30p.m. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ramona Carroll at **ramona.carroll@fairfaxcounty.gov****.**
	2. The Food Access Program (FAP) can help aid the community in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provides food distribution at non-profit community-based organizations and Houses of Worship. The first round of funding focused on direct food assistance; the second round supported innovative models in food service delivery. For the third round, they are soliciting community input via survey. They are also creating a focus group to streamline the application process. Please contact NCSFAP@fairfaxcounty.gov if you would like to participate.
9. **NBCUniversal Local Impact Grants- Elisa Matos, NCS**
	1. Elisa followed up on an earlier email that was distributed to CPST announcing NBC Universal Local Impact Grants. For the first time, the grant program will provide unrestricted funds to eligible nonprofits with total expenses of less than $1,000,000.
	2. CPST members will receive a survey on the impact of SNAP benefit reductions. It will only take a few minutes to complete. NCS would like to receive feedback on any impact community members have experienced since the emergency allotments ended in March.
	3. Elisa also thanked everyone for their participation in the group and said it was great to work with everyone.