

Community Provider Strategy Team (CPST)
Information Session Notes
February 16, 2023

1. Welcome and Agenda Overview – Sarah Allen

- a. Sarah Allen recognized Sharon Arndt, who is retiring after 25 years of service to Fairfax County, and thanked her for all of her work, support, and collaboration throughout the years, particularly during the pandemic.

2. Health Department Update-Sharon Arndt

- a. Sharon Arndt thanked everyone for their support. She shared a brief overview of the February 4, 2023 recognition event and a link to the [tribute video](#). The CPST group continues to address basic needs and is doing important work.
- b. COVID is still in the community.
- c. Recently experiencing Norovirus cases in the community.
- d. Same guidance continues to apply, wash your hands, stay home when sick, keep up to date on vaccines. These messages are enduring.
- e. Officially ending the public health emergency on March 1, 2023 but will continue to track COVID as a disease in the community.
- f. Health Department call center will continue to be active until at least July 1, 2023.

3. DFS Public Assistance Updates-Patty Araujo

- a. SNAP Update
 - i. Beginning March 2023 SNAP benefits will return to normal without the added supplement.
 - ii. Since March 2020, supplemental emergency allotments have been added monthly for SNAP households. This increase in benefits was temporary and federal legislation ends this in February.
 - iii. February 16th is the last time households will get the emergency allotment.
 - iv. DFS has sent a mailing to all SNAP households, updated the public website with information, and created a communications toolkit with information in multiple languages. (English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Urdu, Amharic, and Vietnamese) [Changes to SNAP Benefits-Communications Toolkit-Family Services](#)
 - v. The state website also has SNAP information, including FAQ's and a temporary information line, 1-855-635-4370.
 - vi. Referring people who need food assistance to either CSP or the Human Services Resource Guide.
 - vii. March 16, 2023 will be the first day families will not be receiving this supplement, may see increased calls the week following.

4. Food Access Program Resources Update-Ramona Carroll, NCS

- a. This weekend is the last Stuff the Bus event.
- b. Emergency Food Strategy Team is looking at the effects the changes in SNAP have on the community and gathering information.
 - i. Community partners, non-profits, houses of worship, are working together to strengthen our safety net and food distribution programs.

- ii. Inventory of all partners and facilitating conversations and looking at non-traditional hours for food distribution and pantries.
- iii. Already seeing increased need due to inflation and other factors.
- iv. Holiday food assistance planning has begun.

5. Additional Announcements-Sarah Allen:

- a. County Budget process is beginning with the release of the County Executive's Budget on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. [Budget Information and Timeline](#)
- b. Board of Supervisors Health and Human Services Committee will meet on February 28, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. The Children's Behavior Health Plan, Opioid Response, and My Brother's Keeper are items on the agenda.
- c. We received over 600 responses for category development for the funding pool for next cycle. Those categories will be open for public comment and a public comment hearing on April 11, 2023.
- d. Patti Klein with Rebuilding Together shared their organization has pilot programs to help people in rental housing with accessibility assistance. (Patti Klein, Rebuilding Together - 571-933-6429 or pattik@rebuildingtogether-aff.org)

6. Fairfax County Opioid Response Strategy-Ellen Volo

- a. A PowerPoint presentation with data and information about the County's response plan was shared. (PowerPoint presentation is posted to CPST website).
- b. Fairfax County has created a [Opioid Overdose Dashboard](#) with data available, including the number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses.
- c. CareVan could be used as a tool in the community and can advertise events.

7. Wrap Up & Summary –Sarah Allen

Information Links Shared:

FCPS: <https://www.fcps.edu/blog/fcps-week-february-15>

County's public facing page that includes our flyer (in multiple languages) [Changes to SNAP Benefits | Family Services \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

State's page announcing the end of Emergency allotments and Frequently Asked Questions [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) - Virginia Department of Social Services](#)

Food & Nutrition's page announcing the change in federal regulations ending Emergency Allotments in 32 states this month [Changes to SNAP Benefit Amounts - 2023 | Food and Nutrition Service \(usda.gov\)](#)