

CHC - Basic Needs Sub-Committee
Meeting Tuesday, October 27, 2020
2:00 – 3:00 pm
Discussion Summary

Attendance

- Lisa Zuhn – Los Alamos JJAB
- June Gladney – LA Cares
- James Keane – LAPD, School Resource Officer
- Christal Salazar – Victims Assistant
- Maura Taylor – Self Help
- Susan Williams – First Born Program
- Father Mackey – Representing Macrina's House

Updates/Needs

Maura announced MFA will begin accepting applications, for the new COVID-19 Housing Cost Assistance Program, 11/2 – 11/13 and Self Help can assist community members. 40 CARES applications were processed through Los Alamos County program. Self Help has had a couple of requests for pet food assistance, the group suggested people to contact and also Cindy Wells at Pet Pangea.

First Born is seeing some families with needs for formula. June indicated that LA Cares is normally able to provide a can of formula with their distribution boxes, but the families should call and request it. First Born also has a couple of low-income families that are struggling with finding doctors and therapists that accept Medicaid or have a sliding scale. Maura indicated that the Los Alamos Mental Health website – losalamosmentalhealth.org was just updated with therapist information.

Women's shelter project is currently on hold, but Father Mackey indicated that they are able to help and have done so through the Victim's Assistant. Maura provided a reminder that the program (debit card) between Self Help and LAPD can provide some assistance for expenses like emergency food, hotel room, etc. Currently Los Alamos County legal department is reviewing this program and they did find out that there is an MOU between Self Help and LAC. Maura is also going to speak with the Los Alamos Community Foundation about the possibility of them administering the program.

Increase in calls for the Victim's Assistant, all ages and not seeing a trend. Many are struggling because they can not find affordable housing, so they are working on safety plans for staying in the home.

SROs are seeing some truancy issues and finding it is due to need for internet assistance. James has been referring to JJAB and Self Help.

LA Cares is working through the challenges of having their upcoming distributions outside in the dark (in particular Thursday night distribution). Funding is stable and the program is seeing 70-80 boxes distributed each month.

County Health Council Updates

Lisa provided updates from the CHC regarding the County working on an agreement with Darrin's Place, an in-patient substance treatment center in Espanola. Also, the CHC will be working to develop a resource directory for local services, possibly using ShareNM.org. The next CHC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 5th at 12:00 pm and Lisa will let the group know if there is a presentation from ShareNM.org.

Increasing Awareness of Current Programs

Suggestions and discussion were centered around the group putting together a small booklet or posters that highlight current programs in the County. Self Help has funding available until the end of the year for a project like this and Maura will check to see what is available. Father Mackey can provide graphic design services.

The small booklet could include a listing of agencies by category and a general description of each. The concern was a printed document can become outdated quickly. However, there is a need for printed materials for those that do not have access to the internet. It was decided to hold off on the small booklet for right now until more is known about the CHC project for a resource directory.

The group did decide to move forward with posters showing current programs. Each poster would have a theme and possibly ask a question like “Do you need assistance with rent or utilities?”

The posters could be distributed by LA Cares, local businesses, JJAB, First Born, churches, and possibility during lunch distribution at the Senior Center. An electronic version would also be needed. Additional ideas were a banner on the overpass, stuffer in utility bills, and LAPS.

The group decided on the following three topics as the first priority, discussed which programs would be included, and which committee members would reach out for information. The information gathered would be name of the resource, website, and phone number.

Poster #1

Rent/Utilities Assistance

Resource	Committee Member Responsible	Special Notes
LA Cares	June	
Christian Concern Committee	Lisa	
Self Help	Maura	
County Social Services	Maura	Connect with Deni Fell

Poster #2

Food Assistance

Resource	Committee Member Responsible	Special Notes
LA Cares	June	
Food Depot	June	
Self Help	Maura	
LAPS Free Lunch Program	James	Lisa will speak with Kurt Steinhaus about assistance with distribution of flyers
Little Pantries at St Job and TOTH	Father Mackey and Maura	
Los Alamos Senior Center	Lisa	

Poster #3

Domestic Violence Assistance

Resource	Committee Member Responsible	Special Notes
LAPD Victim Assistant	Christal	

The group will try to have all information to Father Mackey by next Tuesday, November 3rd so he can start working on poster designs. From there the group will communicate via email and phone to make changes and finalize design. If needed, a meeting will be scheduled to discuss the project.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next Basic Needs Sub-Committee meeting will be scheduled for the first part of December, possibility December 8th or 15th.