

COSA UWHC Resources Call  
June 16, 2020

John Bidwell, Facilitator, United Way of Hampshire County.

Elaine Arsenault, 2020 Census:

- [elaine.m.arsenault@2020census.gov](mailto:elaine.m.arsenault@2020census.gov) 603-738-6792
- There are people who will be going into the field to drop off census surveys.
- We are looking for 60 sites for August 4-8, room for 6-8 people from 8am-4pm for training. These are local people we have hired and would like to train them locally.
- If you know of space, please share information.

Sandy Bastone, Healthy Families Hampshire County:

- Reminding folks that we are still working with young families and providing support through virtual home visiting.
- There is space available to serve more families, young parents, first time parents.
- Representing Hampshire County Healthy Families
- Saralinda Lobrose is new Supervisor in Hampshire County
- Referral forms accessed at <https://www.communityaction.us/healthy-families>

Jae Casella, Northampton Senior Services:

- Building is not currently open.
- Working on grant funding to help address the digital divide.
- Also determining ways to bring senior center out into the community rather than have seniors congregate at a single space.
- Expect the opening to be in Phase 4 of the Governor's plan or possibly later.
- In need of volunteers to deliver nutritional outreach and brown bag twice a month.
- If you know of any senior who is feeling isolated/lonely - we have a wellness call program that I'm happy to add folks to if they would find it helpful. [jcasella@northamptonma.gov](mailto:jcasella@northamptonma.gov)

Ann Darling, Community Action Pioneer Valley:

- Community Action has received additional funds to help people with rental assistance to prevent homelessness. To find out more, please contact our Community Resources & Advocacy program at 413-584-4237.

Sheila Murphy, The Literacy Project:

- Adult basic education programs in Hampshire County with classes now done for the summer.
- Planning to start year in September with remote learning.
- <https://www.literacyproject.org/>

Laurie Loisel, Northwestern District Attorney's Office:

- School's Out, Now What? Parenting Teens and Tweens Amid Pandemic and Protests
- Register here <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/66/38zp9ang>

Steve Connor, Central Hampshire Veterans Services:

- Still operating in all towns.
- Please refer all veterans and/or widows/survivors of veterans.
- Has resources to help and is concerned about the end of the eviction moratorium.

- 413.587,1299 or email at [vetadmin@northamptonma.gov](mailto:vetadmin@northamptonma.gov) or [Connors@amherstma.gov](mailto:Connors@amherstma.gov)
- We cover Pelham, Amherst, Hadley, Northampton, Williamsburg, Goshen, Cummington, Chesterfield, Worthington, Middlefield and Chester.

Dan Bickford, Northampton Recovery Center:

- Earliest date for reopening is the end of June.
- Will not be able to go back to typical program scheduling.
  - Will operate with six individuals at a time to ensure social distancing.
  - Have measures in place to help ensure client health and safety.
- Main phone number is operational and people can speak with staff and/or peer.
- Posting schedules regularly so people can find a way to connect.
- Virtual programming schedule & any updates on opening see [northamptonrecoverycenter.org](http://northamptonrecoverycenter.org) Facebook or 413-834-4127
- <https://www.northamptonrecoverycenter.org/calendar>

Jeff Harness, Cooley Dickinson Health Care:

- COVID numbers are still fairly low which is a good sign.
  - Numbers are much lower than they were in April.
- Governor has announced change in testing in response to racial inequities in health care accessibility and recent public demonstrations. Cooley is working to expand its testing options so that there will be free testing available to people who participated in protests recently.
- Some local sites have had a backlog of appointments to get tested.
- More surgical procedures are resuming.
- Have slightly relaxed visitor restrictions at the hospital, still with safety protocols.
- Cooley and partners were chosen to receive a grant to focus on developing a food policy council with an emphasis on lots of community engagement.

Kristen Peterson, Clinical and Support Options:

- Director of Community Partner Program.
- Program is going strong and helping more people than ever each month with remote/virtual methods.
- Will begin some face to face meetings if there is a specific need.
- <https://www.csoinc.org/news-events>

Pat Sicard, RSVP of Pioneer Valley:

- Are there projects that can be done by senior volunteers at home?
- Remote opportunities? Phone opportunities?
- Skilled volunteers are still a valuable resource.

Karin Anderson, WIC:

- Reach Karin Anderson at 413-376-1155, [kanderson@communityaction.us](mailto:kanderson@communityaction.us)
- WIC continues to work remotely. All WIC appointments are over the phone.
- Currently the best/easiest way to apply is online <https://www.mass.gov/forms/apply-for-wic-online>
- Local number: 413-376-1160 Breastfeeding Warmline: 413-376-1170 (Franklin/Hampshire)

Lindsay Bennett-Jacobs, COSA and RSVP:

- Do you have any thoughts about COSA going forward? Meetings? Activities?

- Please send them. There is a board meeting next week and board members will be happy to consider suggested options.

Shaundell Diaz, Stavros:

- Have continued to be available to clients during COVID.
- There is not a specific plan for staff and clients to come back to the office but clients are being served and referrals are welcome.

Desiree Lalbeharie-Josias, CES:

- Reach out for resources and information on engaging and supporting young children and their caregivers/families. Check out our website at <https://www.collaborative.org/node/13896> Summer programming begins the first week in July and details available through our website and community-based Facebook pages.
- With increased social/emotional challenges, there are services that provide support during these times to share ideas and strategies.
- Please email Sarah Lusardi, our Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant (ECMH) for resources and services to address young children's social emotional needs and behavior challenges [slusardi@collaborative.org](mailto:slusardi@collaborative.org)
- <https://www.collaborative.org/programs/early-childhood/ecmh>

Zoe Jacobs, Amherst College:

- Looking ahead to the fall and will update next week about Amherst College plans.

Katie Lipsmeyer, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County:

- Have had a lot going on and working on providing mentoring services for littles and families.
  - Using virtual and remote methods to make this happen.
- Staff are working with Amherst Survival Center to get food to littles and families.
- Now helping other agencies with some virtual events after success of Daffodil virtual run.
- [klipsmeyer@chd.org](mailto:klipsmeyer@chd.org)

Mindy Domb, State Rep:

- Expressing gratitude to all providers for services.
- Please keep legislators connected and informed about how they can help.

Jennifer Swetland, 18 Degrees:

- Working on reopening process and getting people back into the office safely.
- Also working on how to resume family home visits.
- Please refer families who need support.
- Our program provides Parent aides/Family support to parents.
- [jswetland@18degreesma.org](mailto:jswetland@18degreesma.org)

Vernetta Marra, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:

- Doing telecounseling and exterior inspections for lead program.
- Hrs M-F 830-330, call 413-663-4057

Pamela Schwartz, WMNEH:

- Take Action
- Support legislation in support of homelessness issues

- It is easy and fulfilling
  - Contact Pamela Schwartz for details
- Subscribe at the website for updates: <http://westernmasshousingfirst.org>
- Attend the racial equity training
  - It has already started, but you can catch up by viewing recordings.
- <http://westernmasshousingfirst.org>
- 413-219-5658

Chris Felton, UMass Civic Engagement and Service Learning:

- CESL is in planning for remote community engagement for fall semester courses and programs.