

Access and Functional Needs Coalition Meeting - Southwest Utah Public Health Department

MINUTES - 3 June 2020 - 10:00 A.M.

- Welcome and Introductions – Kirsten Miner, Access and Functional Needs Advocate, SWUPHD. Showed data and demographics for COVID-19 in our 5-county region
- COVID-19 Southwest Region Update – David Heaton, Public Information Officer, SWUPHD. Most of the cases in our area have been contracted through close contact among family members, close friends, etc. Continue following guidelines for social distancing and wearing of masks as outlined at [swuhealth.org](http://swuhealth.org)
- Support Services Needed During Disasters – Tracie Lund, Family Services Manager, FourPoints Health Domestic violence has increased with this virus. Elder and child abuse, as well as alcohol abuse. A lot of programs had to stop due to the virus, but are hopefully opening up again. There has been a lot of attendance on zoom, so hopefully those incidents of abuse will decrease again. Monthly supplement bag is given to Elders which contains food, toilet paper, sanitizer, baking goods, and some meat (purchased with grant monies). We also contact them weekly to see if they are ok. They are feeling isolated and we are hoping to help ease that. Indian Health Services has given Rapid Testing capability to the tribes. We are rotating that opportunity through our clinics.
- Maintaining Safety While Respecting Self-Determination – Rodney Ross, Regional Director, Danville Everyone we offer services to has the right to wear or not to wear a mask. We are trying to educate them on the importance of masks, but some of them are unable to understand the concept. Social distancing has also been challenging. Some of our clients don't understand why they can't get a hug. Employees are mandated to wear PPE when visiting the homes. Lessons learned: Teaching staff about not bringing COVID-19 in to the clients. Also, the importance of storing an emergency supply of PPE. Having some on hand. Our Response Plan has been updated several times throughout this pandemic. We regularly post our plan inside the homes and send updates by email to staff members. We are pretty much in isolation. Other employers were very understanding to allow our staff to just work for us. It was hard to stop the day programs, but it has helped stop the spread.
- Fit Testing – Emily Davis, Healthcare Preparedness Program Coordinator -Anyone that is required to wear an N95 mask in your facility, needs to be fit tested and re-tested annually. Testing records should be kept for 30 years. The Healthcare Coalition is trying to gather information and equipment to help you learn more about starting a Fit Testing program for your organization, if needed. Email Emily at [edavis@swuhealth.org](mailto:edavis@swuhealth.org) if you have questions or need more information.
- Preparing for Power Outages – Mike Gale, Director, Emergency Preparedness and Response, SWUPHD With red flag warning days, we want to remember other things out there that may affect us and our clients. Power outages due to fires or other events can cause a lot of issues, especially for people with Access & Functional Needs. Mike showed the emPower data which reflects the numbers of people dependent on electric-powered devices in each zip code area. Emergency plans should include backup power sources.

- Shelters, Cooling/Charging Stations – Lauren Willie, Disaster Program Specialist, American Red Cross  
We are making arrangements to use hotels as potential shelter locations. We have been working with local businesses to do that. Cooling stations could be set up with social distancing and infection protection in mind. We have an agreement with all phone service providers and utilities companies in our plan for charging stations in the event of power outage. Kirsten - From national preparedness survey – More Individuals and families need to plan for emergency evacuation meeting places and communication methods; spread the word.
- Audience Comments on Gaps Discovered: not enough community participation, too much sitting, lack of plans for homeless population, lack of PPE, lack of emergency funds, lack of smart phones and/or internet service for telehealth appointments, understanding of how to conduct effective virtual interviews and meetings.
- Next Meeting - September 2 - AFN Coalition Mtg 10:00 am