

Access and Functional Needs Coalition Meeting Minute

March 2, 2022 - 10:00 - 11:30 A.M.

Welcome & Introductions - Joey DeAngelo, AFN Advocate, SWUPHD

For those that have not yet met him, Joey DeAngelo is the new AFN Advocate for SWUPHD, replacing Kirsten. His role and focus is that of liaison but coalition members are the ones with direct interaction and experience with those who the coalition can help. We would gladly welcome anyone that wants to present or has specific needs to bring before the coalition for future meetings. Let Joey know if you have anything for that by email at jdeangelo@swuhealth.org.

COVID-19 Southwest Region Update - David Heaton, Public Information Officer, SWUPHD

The pandemic is now largely being considered behind us. It is still present in the community but the severity has gone down enough to where the state is stepping away from response and leaving any further treatment to the medical side of things. Last weeks hospitalizations are down and have now gone under the 70% threshold at the hospital which shows they are not under the extreme pressure/duress marker. While still busy, they are at a more manageable point than has been the case for about a year. Going forward this will likely become a regular part of the cold and flu season and we have seen a regular sustained decline in all numbers but all of those at high risk should still take precautions and to seek medical advice if you have any questions on how to best prepare yourself.

Weekly updates go out through social media posts on Thursdays. Long haulers (some are minor and do not affect quality of life, while others are disabling) – those still experiencing lingering effects of the virus. We have a link for a support group on our website for those experiencing this.

<https://coronavirus.utah.gov/covid19-long-haulers/>

Lisa Hendrickson: “My friend was undergoing cancer treatments when he got vaccinated and boosted for Covid. He still got it and when they checked, he had never made antibodies. “

David: “This shows how different it was for each person because there are those that did not get sick or get the vaccine but have strong antibodies while others who got the vaccine have none. It is important to do what we can to prevent it but understand that everybody will not have the same result.”

Kristen Clark: “Out of the 590 individuals in the five-county area that died with covid, do we know what their ages were or if they had any co-morbidities?”

David: “It was generally men and co-morbidities were very common.”

Hearing from the Community - Topic: Transportation Grant for People with Dementia - LuAnn Lundquist, Founder/Executive Director, Memory Matters

During covid they would rely heavily on others for rides and transportation to appointments and other things and it would often lead to high exposure potential.

Memory Matters was able to get a van to help with transportation. A big challenge is with confusion. Some dementia patients reach a point where they forget and deal with confusion and forgetfulness which makes transportation difficult, especially for non-family members but even family members as well.

Need to be ambulatory because there is no lift for a wheelchair on the van. Need to have dementia. 1-2 dollars per mile depending on the situation. \$17 per hour additional if they need to provide an extra attendant. They need someone to be with the person with dementia in the appointment to take notes and also to help attend to them and guide them through the process. This is just for Washington and Iron counties. You can contact 5 counties aging group if needing assistance outside Washington and Iron County.

Along with this, Memory matters provides: adult day care, support groups (contact their office for these), early-stage memory loss education series, free telephone reassurance program to check on both dementia patients and caregivers as well, and private consultations.

435-319-0407 to call memory matters. 435-668-2967 to text LuAnn directly with questions about using the service as it is not up on the website as of now, just directly through her. Visit Memorymattersutah.org for more info on the rest of Memory Matters services.

CMIST, Transportation - Joey DeAngelo

CMIST – Communication, maintaining health, independence, support/safety/self-determination, transportation. It is important to have plans in place for transportation of those with access and functional needs in an emergency.

Vance Taylor (California AFN advocate) video: Those with access and functional needs have to do a lot more pre planning for an emergency than an able-bodied person does. The key is proper planning and go through it BEFORE an event happens so that you will be ready when it does happen. It is much harder for someone with access and functional needs to improvise in a situation because they need specific tools and resources (ex. Ramp to get in a car for someone in a wheelchair). Plan for good (you are able to carry out the plan by yourself), bad (you have to rely on someone or multiple people you know to carry out the plan), and ugly (you have to rely on people you don't know to carry out the plan).

This is a community initiative and it is important to have those in planning aware of the need to incorporate access and functional needs into emergency preparedness and response planning.

Resources mentioned in the video

<https://bemsp.utah.gov/operations-and-response/specialty-care-vulnerable-populations/emergency-preparedness-for-vulnerable-populations/>

<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/AccessFunctionalNeedsSite/Pages/AFN%20Library.aspx#evac>

2022 Point In Time Count – It is intended to provide a snapshot of a community's homeless population. Hope to provide a voice for those that are homeless in our community. Try to provide resources for them and monitor to see how we are doing with trying to decrease the homeless population in our area. Visit <https://jobs.utah.gov/housing/reports/> reports for the full report.

One project currently in progress to help with housing issues in St George - 40 to 45 units studio apartments that Switchpoint has with help from the city. March 17th open house (time to be announced later) to try and provide more affordable housing for those getting priced out of their apartments and homes and others without a home currently.

Round Table Discussion: Takeaways, Insights, Stories?

Joey DeAngelo: It is important to be aware of the mental effects of the pandemic and possibility of burnout and compassion fatigue.

Making Sense of stress, Burnout, and Trauma – Matt Quackenbush, LCSW – <https://finding-strength.com/>

Compassion Fatigue – emotional and physical trauma caused by helping others in duress

Upcoming Events: Next AFN Coalition Meeting – 6/1/22

Online Attendees: Lisa Hendrickson, LuAnn Lundquist, Rich Foster, Myrna Hennefer, Jason Bradley, JoulePlaza Manager, Iron County Home Health Agency, Bernadette Cole, Jackie Walters, Nanette Day, David White, Gail Goodman, Kester Tapaha, Maria Bailey, Maleny Heiner, Carmen Alldredge, Kristen Clark, Salma Vazquez, Kelly Bunting (ASL interpreter), Nicole w/PPD, Brenda McKee, Norine Castro, Stacie Holt, Kaden Figgins, Kirk Walters, Kali Church