Aurora Heath Alliance Kids Group

May 5, 2020

10:00-11:30 am

Agenda

1. Introductions

2. Discussion: Responding to COVID-19

3. Tri-County Health Department Update

4. Partners for Children's Mental Health Presentation

Introductions

- Name

- Organization or Community

A quick check in: How are you today?

Red = Totally overloaded, stressed, or on edge. Support or space needed to change the status.

Orange = Juggling many things. Difficult to focus beyond main priorities. Hard to take in new info or make changes.

Yellow = Lots going on, but still managing okay.

Green = Feeling positive and balanced, and have mental space to reflect, assess, be creative, or try new things.

Blue = Feeling sadness, depression, grief or loss of control.

Gray = Listless, bored, unfulfilled, or numb.

Discussion

What needs are you seeing/hearing about in the Aurora Kids Community?

- Need for child care as things reopen – providers have filed for unemployment, and there are limits on how many kids can be there. Will there be enough child care? Early Childhood Council will create list of child care providers (who is open and has space available).
- People are concerned that they won't be safe going back to work.
- Families are concerned about going to health care settings, especially for children with vulnerabilities and chronic conditions.
- Dentists and staff are more exposed and impacted – might be a barrier for kids getting the dental treatment they need. Need to reassure the public that dental visits are not more risky. Limited guidance for dentists.
- Colorado Medical Legal Partnership – uptick in housing issues and evictions. Families concerned with loss of jobs or income. Very concerned about evictions.
  - Sheriffs' Offices not enforcing evictions and courts are closed, but landlords still serving eviction notices
  - All judicial districts behaving differently – some are accepting filings. Not sure what will happen when things reopen – will they be flooded with eviction filings?
- Food pantries having trouble staying stocked
- Aurora Substance Use Prevention Coalition – Kids had activities to go to, potential for summer employment, no Youth Expo. Now they are isolated, there isn't much to do communally, not sure how to do prevention in the new environment. Kids need fun activities to be engaged in.
- Respite for families (always an issue, but exasperated now) – high stress levels for families
- No place to hold meetings for kids (rec centers, city hall, etc closed). How can we engage kids in person? How can we plan if we don't know how many people can be together in person?
- Mental health concerns from being alone
- Immunizations for kids, especially over 2 years old. Puts kids at risk for other health issues. Families are afraid to visit the doctor.

What existing work/resources could address those needs?

- TCHD resources could support messaging around well-child checks, vaccinations, where to go for care for kids and adults (including dental)

- Providers using telehealth visits for mental health

- Communicating with families about what to expect at the doctor separating well and sick, minimal wait-times, know that providers will be wearing masks and shields, etc so they feel comfortable going to get care

- Minimal respiratory illness in kids right now – good news!

- It is safe to go! Could we do a campaign to encourage people to go get care?

- CDPHE transparency of data (symptom monitoring) – we can use this to tell people when it isn't safe

- Continue training family caregivers – but they need funding! Especially because it is harder to bring people in the home and send kids to day programs if they are immuno-compromised. In multi-generational households, it could be an avenue to bring income in.

- Financial resources for families who don't qualify for state/federal resources because they are undocumented – there are lists of resources, but they are disconnected and it is hard for families to navigate. Aurora Community Resource Center is vetting those resources for individuals who may need them so it can be more easily accessible for families. A work in progress!

- Healthy Roots Garden at Children's Hospital – Resource Connect is closed. Using mobile food truck to distribute food to 13 different sites, but may not continue after May 22. A partnership with Aurora Public Schools. A hope to move back to fresh produce.

What can this group do to address the needs?

- Messaging to families: Going to the doctor/dentist is safe, here's why and what to expect

- Messaging to providers: They are sending information to families about meeting CDPHE guidance – what can we share with providers who haven't done that already?

- Inconsistency across counties – Counties who created task forces to respond quickly seem to be doing better. Should there be a central hub/repository of resources?

- "Vet" resources before I share them – make sure they are open, accepting referrals, etc – to avoid creating frustration for families

- Need for community navigators to connect families to resources – they are changing quickly!

- Online learning for clinical and school personnel. Training the behavioral health workforce. Moving in-person trainings to online. Sharing information about what they are experiencing, what's working well.

Tri-County Health Department Updates

Safer-at-Home Guidance

Community Safer at Home Guidance on Tri-County's website

https://www.tchd.org/828/Community-Safer-at-Home-Resources

To prepare for business reopenings, anticipated to begin on May 9, industry specific guidance can be found on state website

https://covid19.colorado.gov/guidance-resources

Supportive documents for businesses can be found on Tri-County's site

FAQ: https://www.tchd.org/DocumentCenter/View/7091/FAQs-SaferatHomeBusiness?bidId=

Checklist: https://www.tchd.org/DocumentCenter/View/7092/51COVID-19-Business-Plan-Checklist_Draftdocx?bidId
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Expanding Testing and Case Tracing

Community-based testing:

- Expanding – Five FDA approved testing sites (private entities) listed on state website. **CDPHE Testing for COVID-19 Information**
- Hospitals will be increasing testing as part of elective procedure requirements

Contact Tracing:

- Training to expand workforce for communicable disease control
- Tri-County is onboarding a person to coordinate recruitment and training of staff and volunteers
- Informatics has coordinated tools and protocol for added workforce

Assessing Community Testing Capacity

- Do you know where community members are going for testing now?

- What are community-specific barriers to testing?

- Are any test sites on the call? If yes, do you have capacity for additional testing?

- Would you be willing to help set up a site and/or do outreach?

Partners for Children's Mental Health

Thank you!

Next meeting:

Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 10:00 am