

MINUTES

ASSET Meeting

April 2, 2020

5:00 pm

Conference Call

Dial in: 515-606-5372

Access Code: 739693

CALL TO ORDER

Keith Hobson called the meeting to order

WELCOME/ INTRODUCTIONS

Deb Schildroth read the following statement:

This meeting is being held electronically because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Governor of Iowa's Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration which included limits on public gatherings; therefore, it is impractical to hold an in-person meeting.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 23, 2020 ASSET MINUTES

Moved by Acker, seconded by Hertz, to approve the January 23, 2020 minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report.

REPORTS

Administrative Team – Ms. Kresse told the group United Way of Story County (UWSC) has been reaching out to agencies and there are updates from agencies on the UWSC website under COVID-19. She said they have been busy helping with food, childcare, and immigration services. She said most UWSC staff is working remotely, and she is very encouraged with the community collaboration happening. She said a community fund for COVID-19 will focus on immediate needs for individuals through programming such as food pantries, child care for essential services, and rent/utility assistance. She said they always hold the Live United Food Drive in May, and that will be a virtual food drive now.

Ms. Schildroth said the City of Ames has closed City Hall and other facilities through May 15. She said the City has pushed as much business as possible to electronic means, and City Hall is still open to the public primarily by phone and email. She told the group that (515) 239-5670 is the COVID-19 hotline that has been set up for business hours. She said the website and other media platforms are updated with new information as it is available. Ms. Schildroth said a new press release will be sent out tomorrow regarding closing playgrounds in parks. She said they aren't sanitized and cleaned regularly because of staff resources. She also said they will be discouraging use of picnic tables and benches. Parks will remain open for use of green space and trails and people are encouraged to use them as long as they maintain social distancing. She said Council meetings and Boards and Commission meetings will be held through conference call or Zoom. City of Ames ASSET contracts for 2020/21 were sent out. She said weekly meetings are being held with partners related to City services. A volunteer asked if the schools will be following suit in closing playgrounds. Ms. Schildroth concurred.

Ms. King said the County buildings are closed to the public and as many county employees that can are working from home. She said the website is continually updated to assist county residents. Ms. King said they are operating under the Continuity of Government (COG) plan in place and as long as it's active the Board of Supervisors will be meeting twice weekly or more as needed. She welcomed Nikki Fischer, Stephanie Spence, and Nancy Brooks as new Story County volunteers to ASSET.

Volunteers – No report.

Agencies/ Panel Representative – Ms. Peterson (Boys and Girls Club) said typically they would be providing after school youth development but they have shifted to digital or grab and go formats, providing activity packets, projects, and food for the whole family. Staff is also providing digital content for kids. She said the team is working hard to stay in contact with families and contacting each family once per week.

Mr. Hobson discussed the calendar. Ms. Schildroth said the joint funders meeting on May 13 will allow funders to continue the work began last May on shared priorities among funders and outcomes and utilizing data from Clear Impact Scorecard and the Community Needs Assessment. She said funders will be able to have discussions and will not be interactive with the public. She said implementing joint priorities may happen in fiscal year 2021/22.

NEW BUSINESS

ASSET Calendar – It was noted that on May 21 ASSET was going to behave an equity training that would be offered to ASSET agencies and that will be postponed. Moved by Golemo, seconded by Brooks, to approve the ASSET calendar after removing the May 21 equity training and updating the April meeting date.

ASSET Officers – Ms. Schildroth said the officers to be considered are:

Keith Hobson – Chair
Ashley Thompson – Vice Chair
Jen Schill – Treasurer

Moved by Acker, seconded by Hertz, to approve the new ASSET officers. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Sequestered funding of YWCA (all services) and HIRTA (Iowa City service) – Ms. Kresse said last meeting these funds were sequestered because more information was needed. She said ISU Student Government has previously given YWCA about \$48,000 outside of the ASSET process. Then it was transitioned to the ASSET process. She said Student Government had not budgeted for YWCA services for 2020/21 but will fund services one more year. Ms. Kresse said Lucy Dougherty has advised that ISU Student Government will require a different process of YWCA next time.

Ms. Kresse said HIRTA has three services funded by ASSET: city rides, county rides, and Iowa City trips. She said the Iowa City service has dwindled and has gotten more expensive. HIRTA ceased to provide that service in March and is unsure that the service will begin in July. She said HIRTA had a driver shortage before COVID-19. She said she is recommending the funds allocated be removed from this service since the service is being discontinued.

Moved by Hoschtein, seconded by Meierkord, to unsequester the UWSC funds for YWCA for 20/21. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Acker, seconded by Golemo, to remove the ASSET recommendation for HIRTA Iowa City trips because the service has been discontinued. Motion declared approved unanimously.

Ongoing Work on Joint Set of Funder Priorities – Ms. Schildroth said the funders began working on joint priorities a year ago. Staff took the three service panels (education, income, and health) and plugged existing priorities into each service panel for their respective funder to approve. She said that will become a working document and taken to the joint funders on May 13 to consider. She said there's a lot of overlap in priorities and funders will need to discuss how to move forward. She said it should be a robust discussion given what has recently been experienced with service needs and gaps.

Ms. Kresse said the Community Needs Assessment will help funders identify how priorities have changed or if there are changes that need made for the next 12-18 months. Mr. Hobson asked if the priorities can be explained. Ms. Schildroth said each funder has priorities that are reviewed annually and then turned over to volunteers each year to be used for the ASSET process. She said the priorities become the driving force that determines how funds are spent. She said the priorities are looked at intensely during the work sessions.

Ms. Golemo asked if by May 13 life is not back to normal how the joint funders meeting will occur. Ms. Schildroth said the meeting will be held through Zoom. It can be accessed by the public or recorded through Zoom.

Update on Community Needs Assessment – Ms. Kresse said the Story County Quality of Life Alliance does an assessment every five years. She said data that already exists, agency data, population and demographic data, etc. are being used. She said an individual survey was also shared with the community to provide input. She said YSS took the lead on entering the survey information. Ms. Kresse said Story County Public Health has hired facilitator Nancy Franz to do focus groups in Nevada and Zearing. A focus group at the end of March was canceled for Maxwell. She said the committee believes there was a good amount of information received at the two focus groups that were held. She said the goal is to have the assessment wrapped up by October/November and submitted next February.

Ms. Brooks said with the COVID-19 event, it's most likely there will be 12-18 months of impact at least, and wondered how that affects the Community Needs Assessment. Ms. Kresse said that committee hasn't had a good discussion on how to include the recent impact. She said they are seeing the needs on the ground daily, and know that needs will be surfacing within the next 3-18 months so she believes this will continue to be discussed. She said the EOC has been working hard and should have a lot of data on highest needs and future needs. She said because of layoffs and unemployment they are convinced there will be an emergency need for rent/ utility assistance that will last several months.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Ms. Kresse the ASSET Administrative Assistant position will soon be posted. She urged anyone that knows of someone that may be interested and qualified to reach out.

Ms. Schildroth said inquiries are being made by agencies regarding where funding stands if services have been stopped or modified. She said there is a set of questions that will be going out to agencies to

gather more information on where agencies are at. She said even though this will be coordinated at the Admin Team level, this will need consideration by each funder.

INFORMATION/ ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next ASSET Administrative Team Meeting: May 6, 2020 (12:15 p.m.)

Next ASSET Meeting: May 14, 2020 (5:00 p.m.)

It was noted that the upcoming ASSET meetings will be held electronically.

Ms. Kresse said Liz Hertz has served on UWSC Allocations as well as ASSET and is an outgoing volunteer. The team expressed gratitude for her service. Joel Hoschtein and Jehan Faisal were welcomed as new UWSC ASSET volunteers.

Ms. Schildroth said all City volunteers are returning.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.