

Minutes

ASSET Joint Funders Meeting

May 5, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this was an electronic meeting.

PRESENT: Amber Corrieri, Latifah Faisal, Matt Franco, Tim Gartin, MaryBeth Golemo, Linda Hagedorn, John Haila, Becky Harker, Julie Haverly, Lisa Heddens, Rachel Junck, Joel Hochstein, David Inyang, Linda Murken, Andrea Rich, Jenny Schill, Kim Stephens, and Ashley Thompson.

STAFF: Jean Kresse, Deb Schildroth, Sandra King and Anneke Mundel

Welcome and Introductions Ashley Thompson, ASSET Board chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of May 13, 2021 Minutes

Murken moved for approval of May 13, 2021 minutes with no changes, seconded by Golemo; Motion was carried unanimously.

Individual Funder Priorities – Deb Schildroth stated that these were shared mainly as information and a resource for funders to refer to.

OLD BUSINESS

Shared Joint Funders Priorities – Deb stated that shared priorities came out of the discussion that started 2 years ago as a result of limited funders. More data is being provided on program outcomes through the ClearImpact Scorecard. At last year's meeting we were waiting to see results of the 2020 Community Needs Assessment. It was determined that priorities among funders under education include public education, advocacy & awareness, and youth programs. Overlapping priorities in financial stability include childcare, food, and rent/utilizes. In the area of health, priorities that overlap include medical, mental, substance abuse, crisis, dental and wellbeing. All were discussed and although they do overlap it was decided we would like to see the results of the needs assessment and we were also at the beginning of the pandemic so any action at this time was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Needs Assessment Presentation – Slides on the 2020 Community Needs Assessment were presented. Story County Quality of Life Alliance (SCQLA) is charged with conducting a community-wide needs every five years. The top six needs were identified (in order of importance): Mental Health, Food Security, Housing, Child Care, Suicide Prevention, and Income.

Nancy Franz assisted in determining the focus for the 2020 Community Needs Assessment. The focus will be: What are the most important health and human service needs of the people of Story County and why?

Information was gathered in 4 Waves: (1) Data Collection – document & existing human service partners; (2) Survey – 567 responded; (3) Focus groups – Zearing and Nevada (Maxwell was cancelled due to COVID-19); (4) Delphi expert panel (13 health & human services representatives).

Comments from the Chats:

If you were able to disaggregate the data by sexual/gender minority status, the suicide prevention statistics are significantly higher for those populations based on national data. Joel Hochstein

...did disaggregation on age, and geographic – need to start looking at by race and ethnicity; gender and minority – may not be local data but there may be data on a national level... we need to make sure we are addressing the needs to those that need it the most per community needs assessment.

Jean, I am very concerned with the percentage of Story County kids considering suicide. Do you have baseline data for comparison for Iowa and nationally? Thank you. Tim Gartin

www.uwstory.org/health is one place to obtain suicide data for youth in Story County compared to the state

Percentage-wise, Story County has a higher suicide rate than statewide. The data at the United Way website comes from IDPH and goes back to 2000.

Are ISU students included in this income inequality? If so does that significantly contribute to the larger inequality? Mayor Haila

Anneke shared that the comparison of the UNI Study – pandemic...etc. disaggregated by race and poverty.

The drop in the food insecurity rate has a lot to do with a change in methodology. I am happy to share details from Feeding America researchers with anyone interested. The new food insecurity methodology (Feeding America) removes most undergraduate students, FYI. That is partly why the number dropped dramatically. Anneke Mundel

We must acknowledge the relationship between mental health and the other needs. People with mental health issues are more likely to be food insecure, difficulties with employment and hence housing and income insecurities. Suicide is also obviously an issue under mental health issues. Linda Hagedorn

...five years is too long to review community data/needs – concerned with mental health

If we are able to disaggregate the community needs assessment data in different ways and then use the data collected by our agency partners to look at those same areas, we can work to identify gaps in service and work to address those gaps to get services to those that the data says we need to get to, but aren't currently reaching. That is one way that we could use the data to help advance our work. Joel Hochstein

Ashley – we have health care workers coming out of the pandemic, with a lot of mental – PTSD...starting to see that now –

Workforce health care crisis – mental health and disabilities...have programs closing because they can't hire people because of low wages. Amber Corrieri

Psychiatrists are hard to recruit...again because of low reimbursement rate. Lisa Heddens

Good examples statewide for showcasing the issues. Ashley – blue print from other communities and counties that we can learn from.

Becky noted that we need to have the conversation with individuals impacted in all areas. We need to be mindful and include them in the conversation.

Other Comments/Updates:

The City of Ames is hosting a mental health forum on May 20 at City Auditorium. There will be a panel of professionals and representatives discussing what we can do to assist individuals and families. The City will also be covering the cost for individuals to attend the Mental Health First Aid.

David Inyang reported that there needs to be more education on Mental Health because is it so stigmatized. How do we get people to talk about the needs? We need to ensure that we are reaching the people most in needs...direct them to resources.

Linda Murken mentioned that a few years ago there was community wide conversation and referred to an Inclusive Community help at APL. This is really the time to rally the community around this issue – timing is right, have the data and the passion from individuals. Building community awareness – beyond Ames by engaging mayors from rural communities.

Tim Gartin asked about not funding the VCSC and if there is a pathway forward. Kresse stated that United Way looked at the duplication and costs. Most agencies are doing their own recruitment and there are more volunteer platforms – GivePulse, SignUp Genius and others that are available. This past year, understanding the pressing basic needs due to the pandemic helped the UW board make the decision to cut funding. Schildroth stated that in the VCSC Strategic Plan from 2 years ago one of the items they were going to work on was to diversify their funding sources – no progress was made to this end.

Adjourn: Meeting ended at 5:24 p.m.