COVID-19 Task Force, Meeting Notes  
April 14, 2020

Situation Report (Mayor Hagerty)
- Concern: Senior living centers are reporting increased cases at two locations
- Metrics are promising, the “Stay in Place” Order is working. April is the peak; however, we need to continue to practice social distancing and other measures to stay safe
- The City’s PPE supplies continue to be in good shape for the emergency response team and City workers
- Hospital capacity is increasing
- Tracking police engagement. Incidents are minimal

Spotlight on Mental Health (Jana Jones)
- Partnering with Northwestern University to provide teletherapy, full family services, and large research ability for behavioral health
- Services offered are:
  - Safe/confidential space to discuss feelings
  - Active intervention for panic/anxiety attacks
  - Sharing resources for mind-body tools (list of therapists)
- A few of the main items we should be aware of as a community:
  - Transition is disorienting as people figure out a new way of normal grounding. This is normal in a time of crisis
  - Security is challenged for employment/job safety and the safety net of healthcare
  - There is a lot of anxiety over job loss and people begin to cope in unhealthy ways
  - People are experiencing grief over the lost of a loved one, also grief around your way of life (i.e. graduations, birthday celebrations, etc)
  - Shelter in Place Order has created new navigating patterns around communication with friends and family
  - Romantic partners can also experience a strain while navigating this challenge together
  - Children also experience grief and missing social time with friends. This may contribute to new behavioral issues and an additional challenge for parents who need to work at home
- A few positive outcomes we should be aware of as a community:
  - Families are spending more time together
• Individuals have an opportunity to slow their pace, rest and reflect on their priorities
• Self-care is crucial for establishing boundaries between work and home. Exercise and getting fresh air is also very important
  • Hotline information for additional resources and assistance is: 1-888-409-0141

Hospitals
  • St. Francis (Kenneth Jones)
    • Staffing three IUC units
    • Supplies for PPE and ventilators availability are good
    • Onsite testing is continuing
  • Evanston Hospital (Doug Silverstein)
    • Over 14K patients tested
    • Supplies are stable

Legislators
  • Jan Schakowsky’s Office (Ann Limjoco)
    • Taxpayers, people on Social Security, and non-filers are able to check the status of their stimulus payments at: irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments
  • Senator Laura Fine’s Office (Laura Fine)
    • Working group call tomorrow, 4/15, to IDES to answer constituent questions
  • Robyn Gabel’s Office (Robyn Gabel)
    • General Assembly in session this week, however Representative Gabel is a part of a number of working groups to push bills that may have an important impact on the community related to COVID-19. She serves on the Budget, Healthcare, Human Services, and Medicaid Committees
    • Please contact her office with concerns or items to address
  • Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz’s Office (Karen)
    • No update
  • Commissioner Larry Suffredin’s Office (Adam)
    • The new deadline to appeal property tax assessments is May 1

Education (Eric Whiterspoon & Phil Ehrhardt)
  • Reporting roughly 3,100 students online for classes
• Demand for school lunches have stabilized and we will continue to monitor for efficiency

Senior Living (Mary Leary)
• Three Crowns is still in need of more PPE
• Working group meeting tomorrow for additional updates on issues

Business (Roger Sosa)
• Concern: slow processing for SBA loans and may run out of money. Working with local businesses to lobby legislators for additional funds
• Going forward, business are looking into PPE for groceries stores, and what the “new normal” will be to address concerns

Northwestern University (Luke Figora)
• No update

Nonprofit (Monique Jones)
• Established working groups around; the homeless population, food insecurities, the undocumented, and childcare
• Constructing a plan to isolate residents in aggregate living conditions
• Raised $800K and roughly half has been disbursed to community facilities for assistance
• The applications from the open application process on 4/10 are due this Friday, 4/17

Mental Health (Christine Sommerville)
• Anxiety and depression are common conditions we are seeing
• 28 health care providers are in Evanston
• Coordinating efforts to distribute resources in the community
• Concern: addressing issues with the Stay at Home Order and safety for children

Faith-Based (Pastor Michael Neighbors)
• Continuing to provide encouraging video messages for first responders
• Many houses of worship are sharing best practices for social media platforms
• Many congregations are still struggling with finances and continuing contributions
• The soup kitchen is still serving the community

Next Meeting: Friday, April 17th at 1:30 p.m.