Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023 Quarterly Collaboration Meeting, and Service Array Review:

1. Went through updates on group work from the last time we all met.
2. Update on what three areas looking at (Transportation, Communication, and Identifying groups.)
3. Transportation:

Notes from what people spoke out about:

The bus has to stay on the same routes they have and cannot change or expand at this time. If you go outside of town the cost goes up more. They have to follow their rules and funding.

Community action can help by cars for families.

We cannot rely on public transport. (John)

Bicycles and strollers for families to use. (Jen)

Someone spoke that they use to have a bicycle program but was overused, things broke, and bikes were not returned. The program shut down.

Get North Platte Schools involved seeing where they decided for school transportation.

Caroline (Talked about getting parents involved with carpooling with parents) But dangerous because of who can trust whom to drive etc.

EDN (School district is limited. Little who are qualified are encouraged to pay mileage instead of bussing. )

John (Said takes a lot to get people to carpool, a lot of moving parts)

Check-in with Holiday Inn Express like Grand Island they have busses to help transport through the hotels.

Daycare/ Churches with vans to help with. (Liability comes with issues)

Bobbi- Bobbi has heard from someone that they are grants and funding to help with coming up with ways to transport. Create a new program but someone has to be in charge of writing the grant and running it.

What are the barriers of transportation: One would be two people family but only one has a car so the other parent does not have a car to transport because the other parent uses it for work. Other families have no cars and rely on other people and friends.

North Platte Transit sometimes is always full.

Someone spoke that transportation should not be discussed in this group. Others spoke is we need to meet some of these needs is help with meeting these needs because they are not met until the transportation is solved.

Charities the help be the solution in other towns and states that have come up with solving the transportation problem. (Someone on Zoom)

Insurance companies need to help pay for some transportation.

Bobbi- Knows two insurance companies have changed and made a difference but it is finding the specialist to get families to them.

Bobbi- Need for transportation: schools, medical appointments, parents leaving young kids or other kids at home while they take the child to appointments or schools. It will take a community to get this solved.

Many great ideas but who is going to take it over and help write the grants and be involved?

Was asked the group: Who needs to be on the task force to get on board: Feedback was who needs the transportation would be the ones to be on it.

Need more key players to the table to get some of these issues solved. We need to write to them and get them involved and advocate.

Someone suggested George from the bulletin maybe do an article to get people more involved.

Someone thinks transportation is a government issue.

Someone said that the students have to sit in the office when getting to school because they are too cold. So walking does not always work.

(John)Businesses are going to have to step up and help transport them.

Getting stakeholders on board to join to help.

Need to invite on tasks force: City, Schools (Not just public but private schools), Walmart DC, Great Plains, Beef, Hotels, Center of rural affairs, Department of Labor, Menards. Any big operations and employers. Think needs to be a smaller tasks force for big stakeholders.

United Way has ride United 211 services. Something to look at to get if off the ground.

GPH has a separate contract with public transportation for after-hours but still struggles.

Some said: Promotion for Uber drivers. Employers link on account for the easy billing cycle. Called Uber Business.

Check with what Buffalo County is doing/Uber/ Task Force/GPH/ Expand funding for public transportation.

Jeff: Suggested a Survey

Questions for Survey:

Last 30 days have you missed an appointment/work due to transportation?

Have you missed any opportunities due to no transportation like going to events?

What is your most common mode of transportation?

Jane asked if you could share the survey on social media. Like public input.

4. Communication:

Service Directory: from Family First Partnership (Called First Link)

New feature: Discussion board on First Link.

5. Talked about online service directory crisis contacts/assistance.

Shared out the barcode. Made posters for scanning codes in English and Spanish.

The team talked about getting the poster to more businesses in the area.

6. Next priorities: Childcare/ Mental Health

Caroline gave updates on these topics about the data gathered.

Mental Health: Drug and alcohol rehab center no one wants to take it on. No updates.

Childcare: A lot of them are full.

Lady Bug Crossing has one new childcare opening in Sutherland so may open more spots in North Platte. Lady Crossing will have three locations.

Noah’s Ark has another center opening do not know how full they are yet.

Cuddles and Imaginations may have more openings as has expanded. They also have spots saved for sustainable beef.

Not much training in the North Platte area for daycares and no one knows where to go to get a daycare up and running. (ESU16 does some training in the area).

7. Missing Data:

Caroline gave out data on Veterans. Five Veterans want to join the group. Help with Welcoming home Veterans.

Substance abuse needs more in-depth information so we can gather more data.

Missing disability information: What are the needs? We have lower-end assistance. Check in the Social Security office to get more data and whom we talk to about resources and get information. May need more education for the public on getting disability. What do they do while they are waiting to get a disability? Someone talked about how we could create something for him or her while they are waiting.

Someone spoke that the Social Security office is not a friendly environment and is busy so hard to educate people on how to apply for disability. Use the program SOAR.

Waitlist for DD services is a big gap in the community. Educate them that services need to be applied for at the beginning like in schools because of the waitlist.

Educate teachers, schools, and families on DD services to help eliminate the gaps and ones that fall through the cracks.

Disability needs to be applied as a child to have records so when they are adults then they are able to get on. Need to educate the process.

Someone wants the team to check in with ESU16 and see what they offer.

Present at the inner agency for DD services to help educate other agencies.

Felon data- did not have resources for that to get data- Check in with Sheriff’s offices or McCook work program. Department of Corrections. Probation offices. Crime commission.

Undocumented- West Central does have a survey they have offered. Hard to gather data. But could get population data.

Health Department: language barriers and Access to health care. Assessments and programs to watch for them coming in the future.

Finding resources for legal aid to help people apply for resources. People do not know where to get started.