

Community Partners Recovery Meeting Notes

Thursday, April 7, 2016, 3:00 p.m.

Ground Rules

- This is a workgroup meeting not a town hall meeting
- Please no recording devices
- No offensive language
- Questions and answers will be within designated times after report outs
- Please no interruptions in questions or answers

Announcement about Civil Rights Hearing

- Media advisory available today about this event
- Public hearing will be held April 28, 2:30 pm to approximately 8:15 pm, Riverfront Banquet Center
- Hearing will focus on racial bias and discrimination and environmental injustice
- Opportunity for public comment (preference given to Flint residents)
- Panel of various agencies working on water crisis will also be featured
- Commission's next steps will be outlined
- Media advisory will be sent out on email list

United Way/Good 360 Update

- Have received baby wipes, partnering with GCCARD for distribution
- Hand sanitizer and bottle openers are expected to arrive by Friday
- Will let you know when these items are available for your organization to pick up in the quantity requested

Communications Workgroup

- Moving forward with Flint Cares website
- In next week or so planning to launch website
- Basic information on website
- Identifying other communication channels
 - Churches, barber shops, community newspapers, etc.
- Finding out what format these channels need information in
- State of Michigan provided list of all licensed barber shops, working on list of churches, over 400 in city of Flint
- Pushing out basic information, trying to control any scams or confusion
- Working with all government institutions
- Ask for information to be pushed into community
- Make sure people know how to use and update their filters

Mental Health Workgroup

- Flint Community Resiliency Group meeting (a subgroup of Mental Health workgroup) will be combining with this group meeting on April 19, 3 pm

- Location TBD
- Goal is to have these two large groups connect and work together
- Stress management survey went out to providers
 - Survey now at DHHS
 - GHS providing listening circles for staff to help them deal with stress
- Data/gap analysis group working with CDC on methodology for study
- Katie Baxter (GHS) on Medicaid waiver
 - GHS receiving Medicaid waiver for children ages 0-21 as well as pregnant women
 - Goal is to link and coordinate these individuals to primary care providers, start casework management, connect them to Medicaid health plan for behavioral health services
 - GHS providing grant money for outreach efforts to get educational materials out and connect people to services
 - Important to understand that GHS is the provider of services for people with serious mental illnesses, substance abuse disorders, and developmentally disabled
 - Screening process exists to identify these populations who are eligible for GHS services
 - Targeted case management services will happen simultaneously for all affected by water crisis (starting May 1)
 - Anyone not eligible for GHS services will be linked to other resources that can help them

Physical Health Workgroup

- Working on joint meeting between physical health workgroup and education workgroup
 - Scheduled for Tuesday morning at GISD
- Areas of discussion will be
 - Most simple, basic, health educational materials we can put together for both children and adults
 - Continuation of rash and bathing messaging, especially for newborns
 - Medical society will join meeting with update from local dermatologist perspective
 - Bottled water safety
 - Review all informational flyers
 - Look at Medicaid expanded waiver application process
 - Need to begin to coordinate and align different case management programs in community
 - Need to make sure residents are not approached over and over again in an uncoordinated way
 - Many new school nurses that have been hired for community will participate
- If there are any other agenda items you want to see this joint meeting discuss, contact Kirk Smith
- Interpreter needs for adults and medical providers

- MDHHS planning to follow up with Medicaid leadership and health plans to determine what actions can be taken to make sure interpreters can be available for adult deaf community
- Will continue to provide updates on this

Education

- Meeting next Tuesday with physical health group

Recovery Resources

- Plans for community hubs, “help centers,” well on their way
- Going to all orgs/churches interested in becoming a hub to discuss next steps
- Have drafted plan to revisit door to door distribution idea
 - Going to start working with churches in different neighborhoods to “adopt” areas
- All invited next Tuesday, 9 am, Food Bank, for next meeting
- If you need bus passes, they are available today
- State PODs getting ready to open
 - Wards 1, 3, 6 in soft opening now
 - 9 starting training on Monday with logistical opening next week
 - After open wards are functioning, fire stations will begin to transition
 - Looking for ways to use closed schools as potential locations for PODs
 - Feel free to offer any suggestions for meetings

EPA updates

- Hot water in Brita/Pur filters
 - Reached out to manufacturers
 - Contaminants absorbed in filter may be released into water when hot water is used
 - If hot water is used in filter, switch immediately to cold and flush anything that may have gotten into water
 - Excessive use of hot water can damage filter cartridge
 - If you use hot water excessively with filter, change cartridge immediately and then use new one
 - If filter is turned off, hot water can flow through tap without causing damage
- Concerns about what are coming out of hot water tanks in homes
 - Trihalomethanes (chemicals that break down from chlorine used to treat water)
 - Everything in acceptable ranges for these byproducts based on data
- Continuing to support health partners with rash investigation
 - Should be done within the month
- Data meeting
 - Water quality for water mains is good
 - Lots of lead still coming out through taps in homes
 - Lead levels highly random

- Some improvement is being seen in service line from main to home
- Not enough conclusive information yet
- Because data is so random, cannot give estimate as to when pipes will improve to be compliant with federal law
- Experts speaking on April 16 at UM-Flint in greater detail with data displays
 - Harding Mott University Center, UM-Flint, 400 Mill St.
- Giving advice to community to run water 5 minutes every morning, any tap in the house
 - This will help flush out particle contaminants

City of Flint/Mayor's Office Updates

- Continuing with lead service line removals
 - When initial 30 are complete, will continue to evaluate and wait for more funding to continue replacements
- As of tomorrow, city will start issuing credit state has given for water bills
- Question about why bills are all the same regardless of water usage
 - Bills suspended two months ago
 - Accumulating in system
 - All usage that has gone through
 - Contact person for person not satisfied with amount on bill based on their own calculations—talk to Steven Branch
 - Want transparency and fairness
 - For every gallon that goes through meter, a gallon is charged for sewer treatment as well
- Question about deaf person receiving water bill—do they have to register to get credit? What happens to bill if someone moves to different location? When deaf people come to city hall for help, will there be an interpreter available?
 - All bills have account number
 - All account numbers will have a credit
 - If a person moved within city, can tie account numbers together
 - Will need help to provide interpretation services
 - Need to provide assistance for sight-impaired residents as well
- If someone is behind on their water bill, do you have to be current with your payments before you can receive your credit?
 - If the water bill is still running, you will still receive credit for what you have paid for
- How are bill payments going to be validated? How do we know residents will get adequate credit?
 - City keeps record of what has been paid
 - On city of Flint website, resident can see online history of payment by account number
 - If someone is having any issues with this, see Steven Branch
- With such high water bill rates, 65% credit coverage does not seem adequate?

- Credit is available until it is used up
- Household did not receive bill last month?
 - Either bill was suspended or there was an error in postal service
- EPA request to flush water—how will this affect bill?
- State provided 30 million dollars for credits

Question and Answer

- Update on blood and plasma question?
 - Still working on getting response
 - Hopefully will have something next week
- Will link to Flint Cares website be sent out on email distribution?
 - Yes, link will be sent out, and marketing campaign will be underway as well once site is live
 - Working on having an app available on website to allow for translation
- Concerns about translators for Hispanic community in Flint
 - Mental health group representative will be present with translator at Our Lady of Guadalupe church every Sunday
- Concern about ground rule of not recording at meetings
 - Concern that not being able to record prevents openness and transparency
 - Rule has existed since beginning
 - Not everyone in meeting consents to being recording
 - Community looks to different sources to get information
 - If you are going to record, it should be captioned to avoid discrimination
 - Not allowing press coverage needs to be a group decision
 - Don't want to feel unsafe about seeing things that are said disseminated in social media without consent
 - Will look at concerns about recording for future meetings