**RMCCT Online Check-In Meeting April 15, 2020**

1pm

Facilitator; Susan Foster

Attendees; 13

**Check-in:**

* Jenny/ Family Ed; Most people want regular to speak with someone regularly. Caring dad’s not offering program in regular format but providing contact with registered and previous participants. Hoping it will reduce risk of violent outbursts in home.
* Natalie/Family Ed; Family navigator – connecting through phone, email, Facebook. A lot of them are in family leaf program. Set up zoom schedule for this and circle time. They’ve been well attended. It’s been really nice to see everyone again and have program back in a different format. Regularly posting and updating on social media.
* Liza/MR Library; Library is still out there, all of them are closed but are working from home and available. Everything we’re offering is virtual. New additions; ecards, streaming story times, sign up for access to all databases; books, tv streaming, audio books, training, ancestry.com, etc.
* Nikki/Family Ed ; Schools Out program; phoned all parents involved /registered in program. Given all baskets, doing activities with kids online, phone calls with parents to check in. I’m working on putting together anger management stuff, getting people ready for zoom. Teaching a workshop in 2 weeks about conflict resolution – free workshop, the next week will be parenting resilient children, then home alone. Then all 3 again for more participants.
* Christina/Community Network ; We put out an ask for volunteers and we now have them, but no spaces for them to go and help. If anyone is looking or needing volunteers, please contact us. They’re signed up and registered, criminal checks, etc. Need places for them to help. Contact myself or Danielle. We’re putting a hold on volunteers until we have more organizations involved. Just had CN meeting, nice to share with community about what’s going on.
* Melanie/ School district;Zoom meetings with kindergarten teachers, talking about transitions, etc. wanting to keep things streamlined across the district. No direction about whether we’re going back or not. Not sure what September looks like; new Kindergarten’s coming in, gradual entry, not sure how it’s going to look. Depends on what comes down through the ministry.
* Brenna/Fraser Health; Immunizations still happening, not hearing speech, dental. Still doing check in’s with clients. Hospital; we’ve been low with visits. People are staying at home and not going to clinic as much. Continuing to support public health role with different initiatives through the community. Through being a liaison, people are starting to know to contact me for certain issues. No shortage of volunteers in the community. Any questions about programs or anything please contact me.
* Ginna/FRIS ;I’ve reached out to Danielle about volunteers. Hard to keep up with the updates. Social media is a good platform but a lot of work to keep up. Any useful tips would be great! Down to out last 150 meals, needing to find money to keep it going. Keeping up with applications, working with partners.
* Jackie/City of Pitt Meadows; still working through agendas for task force for vulnerable populations. Hoping for resolutions for next week and moving forward. Connecting with agencies, keeping up with updates, pull together resources to help people. “how do you access that info”. Bylaw working with redeployed staff working with social distancing in the community. Virtual art gallery launched.
* Wendy/RAMCL; Things are the same, staff connecting with family, getting better at it. More families want support now. Staff doing a lot of online training. Doing work is different on this virtual platform, still getting used to not being face to face with families.
* Jennifer/City of Maple Ridge;We are running our park ambassador program with bylaws as well out in the parks, providing education and conversation. It has been going well, working through moving some programming online.
* Susan/MCFD; still providing services, update about money being given to families without contracts. We had are NF meeting yesterday and had polls; keeping kids busy is still highest, keeping kids on track with school work, child care is better now. On a maternity call yesterday – issue raised that parents are not getting kids immunized because they’re afraid to go out. Can we get a message out to parents about this? Educate them? Public health does follow up with immunization schedules.

**Food Security**

* Ginna; We’ve had conversations about the food banks, salvation army, starfish backpack, etc. What I perceive as an ongoing need – how does our organization fill in the gaps. Need to continue to find funding and do our part in this. Non-profits are able to adapt quickly. How do we move forward?
  + Jenny; good question. A couple of things came to my attention about applying for funds. I’ve put in applications, I’m happy to work with other organizations. Funding was to help families with groceries, etc. I can work with anyone who wants to work on it. We’ve only been addressing the needs of our own clients, we’ve not been a part of a group about food security.
  + Ginna; for groups that run community kitchens it makes sense. Priority for families to access on their own through gift cards, community approach purchasing the food and providing that way. As a community approach does it look like we need funding for gift cards or to build an infrastructure for the community.
  + Jenny; both? People may not be able to access prepared food or people that cannot go buy food because nowhere to prepare it. Some benefit more from gift cards and do their own shopping, some need the kitchens.
  + Ginna; so many different specific needs.
  + Brenna; sit on provincial food security committee; doing gift cards, food hampers, etc. Vancouver coastal – talking about doing a needs assessment; are people accessing the food bank or staying home? Are more people in need when they weren’t before? Not sure what the true picture is right now. Seem to be meeting needs according to requests but not sure about the hidden population that is not reaching out. How do we communicate to them, how to we make access? There is large funding and small funding we can access. I think MR is going to come out of it with much higher needs due to unemployment. Quite a few measures have been put in place. We drafted an application for a grant before covid – needs assessment and plan. It would be good timing if we got the funds now to hire a food security co-ordination. If anyone has ideas I’d like to support work in this area.
  + Christina; has anyone talking to Haney farmers market? Reach out to the farmers, maybe we can work together?
  + Brenna; they have a new ex director who spoke with municipality. Now deemed essential, may look a bit different now only selling essential products. Problem with location is there are so many entrances, hard to manage people. Some communities are using online platform (market trail) to access produce. It might be something that is being considered for Haney farmers market.
  + Christina; maybe educating people about basic gardening information – what to plant, when to plant.
  + Brenna; Victoria has a new resolution around seed planting. Food security is a top priority for community programmers but maybe not municipality. Motion to grow plants in city nursery to give to families highly affected by situation. School meal programs are up in running along with starfish backpack program.
  + Jackie; conversation around farmer’s market in Pitt Meadows

**Back to school**

* So many unknowns right now. Asking teachers to limit what they send home to parents.
* We’ll check in about this again

**Drop Boxes**

* They’re up and running, hoping you’re all checking them. We don’t want to overwhelm people, but we do have resources that might help

**New business**

* Burnaby ECD table thinking about doing a survey with families. Once done Susan will share and we could talk about distributing it to our parents. Not sure if parents and agencies are feeling overwhelmed.

**Encouraging Families to Get Regular Medical Care**

* Brenna will check with Fraser Health to see if there is a flyer or link that we can promote and send out to parents.
* Golden Ears Family Practice is still doing in person visits, with safety measures in place
* Natalie; wondering if virtualclinics.ca has anything?
* Christina and Brenna will see if there is anything to update on Pathways regarding this issue as well (check in with Division of Family Practice regarding virtual and in-person visits)

**Other**

Roberta is now done with her co-ordinator contract, so Jenny is now the main contact; please send all agenda items and information that you need distributed to her at [reg@familyed.ca](mailto:reg@familyed.ca). The previous email of [rmecd@telus.net](mailto:rmecd@telus.net) is Roberta’s, so please don’t use that one any longer.

Meeting adjourned 2:05pm