NOTICE OF MEETING
DUBUQUE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DUBUQUE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Date:  Wednesday, March 18, 2020
Time:  10:00 a.m.
Place:  Board Chambers, 4th Floor, Courthouse

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AGENDA

1. Update from the County Emergency Response Team on COVID-19

2. County Operations Response Plan
   
   A. **Determination of operation and facility closings**
      • Courthouse
      • West Campus
      • Old Jail
   
   B. **Budget**
      • Resources Unite
      • Elections
   
   C. **Personnel and policy implications**
      • Emergency Policy
   
   D. **Communication plan**
      • Website
      • Social media
DUBUQUE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

03.17.20

In partnership with many organizations and businesses, Resources Unite is requesting support from the Dubuque County Board of Supervisors to better assist community members impacted by COVID-19 throughout Dubuque County.

We have established both reactive and proactive goals to meet the various needs of all residents of Dubuque Country.

Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging
To begin, we are working very closely with Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging to best serve individuals 60 and older who are most vulnerable to the effects of the virus. Effective 3/16/20, their team members began calling every senior receiving services from their agency to assess their needs. If a consumer identifies a need, the team member submits a completed form to Resources Unite that provides information about the client and their needs. For example, today we received approximately 10 forms. Needs from seniors included, but were not limited to, food, detergent, hand sanitizer, incontinence supplies, and toilet paper.

Volunteers
Over the past week we have assembled a volunteer work force that will begin delivering supplies to people in need. We are identifying people in need as individuals who should remain in their homes due to their age, those who have underlying health conditions making them more likely to develop serious complications should they contract the virus, and those people beginning to exhibit signs of illness. Volunteers will deliver food and needed supplies to these people so that they can remain at home to reduce their chance of contracting and/or further spreading the virus in our community.

Basic Supplies
People in need of supplies will also receive a bag of items to meet their basic needs. These bags will include: thermometer, Tylenol, toilet paper, laundry detergent and a cleaning product.

Food Insecurity
We also must focus our efforts on children and families. With schools closed, food insecurity will be an issue for many families within our community. Food pantries have already begun scaling back their quantities for fear they will not receive the needed donations from the community or food bank.
To address this imminent need we have been working with St. Stephens Food Bank with a plan to help bolster existing food pantries, especially those located throughout Dubuque County. Our goal with rural food pantries is twofold:

• Provide additional food for their pantries and also provide the additional volunteers needed to transition their pantries from appointment only usage to day to day business hours.
• Create a food/resource pantry in towns within Dubuque County that do not currently have a pantry. For example, we have secured spaces in Farley, Holy Cross and Worthington, and we are in the process of doing so for other towns as well. The goal is to have a pantry in each town in our county that can provide supplies for their respective community members.

**Awareness Campaign**

Lastly, we must target the general public for an awareness campaign that focuses on how to remain safe and prevent infection and how to get help if needed. Information from the CDC would be shared along with information from Iowa Department of Public Health. We also would be sharing how people can get help from various organizations. As you can imagine, services are evolving and even shuttering as I write this proposal.

It is important that we pay close attention to how services are changing in our community during this trying time. For example, organizations focusing on homeless individuals are beginning to reduce their maximum occupancy to prevent infection. Organizations focused on serving people that have experienced domestic violence are no longer going to be transporting clients to the hospital and will not be providing in person support. Meal sites are moving to take out meals and some people will no longer be able to access those food resources due to age and preexisting conditions.

**BUDGET**

Regarding the budget, we are respectfully requesting the following for 60 days:

**FOOD:** $20,000

• The goal is to purchase food primarily through St. Stephens Food Bank and then local grocers for supplies that the food bank does not have.

**SUPPLIES:** $40,000

• Supplies will include the following products from Theisen's: Thermometers, Tylenol, Kleenex, toilet paper, incontinent supplies for adults and diapers for babies.

  The following supplies will be purchased from Higley, a locally owned cleaning supply company: hand sanitizer and multipurpose spray.

**HOTEL:** $10,000

• To put at risk members of homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters in a hotel to help reduce capacity and lessen the likelihood of infection.
**RENT/MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE: $50,000**

- To assist people with rent and mortgage payments after all options are exhausted (including working with respective bank).

**UTILITIES ASSISTANCE: $25,000**

- To help ensure people do not fall too far behind in monthly utility bills.

**STAFFING: $6,000**

- To hire a staff member to support community efforts.

**TRANSPORTATION: $10,000**

- To assist people with using the RTA and other forms of transportation to visit a medical provider. This would also include the use of gas cards to support volunteer drivers for delivery of resources and to support the Meals On Wheels program.

**MARKETING: $25,000**

- Marketing would include all forms of media, along with the use of handouts and flyers that would be distributed to target audiences throughout Dubuque County.

**TOTAL: $186,000**

In full transparency, I have based this proposal on what we are seeing now within our office from the people we are already serving and from communicating with other organizations and community groups. There is no question that we are all in unchartered territory, but with that said, I am very confident with our plan and how it will be executed.

Countless community members are stepping up in unexpected ways already. Teachers are offering to help us with childcare issues, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts are ramping up their food collections, businesses are starting collections in their places of employment and so much more. We are hopeful, but know that we must take bold steps now to provide the resources needed while conveying to a community that is increasingly afraid that there is help and that there is a plan in place. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Josh M. Jasper
President/CEO
Resources Unite