

# Dallas County Coalition

Minutes  
Lutheran Church of Hope Waukee  
By Zoom  
10:30am -11:30pm  
Wednesday June 24, 2020

## Attendance and Introductions

Kirsten Johnson (American Lung Association), Myra Willms (ISU Extension), Joy Greer (Family Connections), Kyra Sorenson (Every Step), Kelly Phelps (CCRR), Michelle Greenough (CCRR) Mary Krisco (ISU Extension), Jenny Felt (CPPC/DCAT), Jeanette Luthringer (Every Step), Ann Cochran (Dallas County Public Health), Marisue Hartung (ISU Extension), Tonya Weber (New Opps), Damon Clark (Zion), Amber Schelling (Every Step) Deb Franz (Juvenile Court) Amy Patrick (New Opps) and Debra Schrader (4 R Kids ECI).

## COVID-19 Response

- There are few new resources available; [Bartender Emergency Assistance Program](#), [One Fair Wage Emergency Fund](#) and [Covid-19 Solidarity Entry Support](#)
- There are new [Test Iowa Sites](#).

## Agency Sharing

- WIC continues to see all clients remotely through phone and texting. We will not be at our Dallas County WIC sites in July and possibly in August. If families are interested in WIC, please call 515-282-5800. They have seen 75 more participants since March.
- CCRR shared that the definition of 'infant/toddler' will be changing to include children up to three years old (currently it is up to two). This means that two-year-old children will now be included in the CCA 'infant/toddler' age group which has a higher maximum rate. Once the child turns three, they will move to the 'preschool' age group. The Department of Human Services (DHS) is making changes to the CCA Plus program: The 12-month eligibility limit for families is being eliminated. As long as family income remains below the monthly gross income limit, families may continue to remain eligible under the CCA Plus program. Because the 12-month limit is being eliminated, the maximum monthly income limit for the program is changing to 225% of the federal poverty level (FPL) rather than 85% of the state median income (SMI).
- Family Connections reported that host families are now accepting children for respite care.
- Zion is still conducting telehealth appointments. Some classes are provided through Zoom.
- Juvenile Court in Creston has just completed a move to the Union County Courthouse.
- The CCNC with Every Step is having close interactions by electronic means to child care providers.
- New Opportunities Head Start is providing summer Head Start in Waukee; additionally New Opps will close on a building in Perry in July to construct an Early Head Start center.
- ISU Extension is offering a 7 week virtual program offered via Zoom for kids who have completed kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade called [Kids in the Kitchen](#). Also offered is an adult program called [Is it Whole grain](#).
- The Quality Improvement Project has delivered activities to child care providers.
- Dallas County Extension announced they are having a scaled back county fair. The National 4-H Council, and the Harris Poll conducted a survey, finds that 7 in 10 teens are struggling with their mental health in the wake of COVID-19. More than half of those surveyed shared that the pandemic has increased their feelings of loneliness, with 64% believing it will have a lasting impact on their mental health. The [survey](#), conducted in May 2020, is among the first to examine the impact this unprecedented public health crisis has had on U.S. teens.
- A new regional director has been hired for Dallas County ISU Extension, Ann Torbert

## Early Childhood Updates/Information

- The legislature resumed June 3, 2020 and most budgets remain at status quo. Early Childhood Iowa is status quo.
- Dallas County Extension will be implementing a pilot project, infant and early childhood mental health consultation for child care providers starting July 1.
- Deb shared compiled data from Kids Count and compared it to Iowa as well and United State.

## Dallas County Children's Advocacy Council Updates/Information

- No update.

## Generation Wellness Update/Information

- No update.

Next meeting: August 26, 2020 at 10:30 and most likely will be held virtually.  
Respectfully submitted by Debra Schrader

