

MEMORANDUM

TO: Native American Commission
FROM: Tia Braseth, Community Development Coordinator
DATE: August 28, 2020
SUBJECT: Fargo Native American Commission Meeting

The next meeting of the Fargo Native American Commission will be held on Thursday, September 3, at 12:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers at Fargo City Hall. If you are not able to attend, please contact staff at 701.241.1474 or Planning@FargoND.gov.

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSION

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approve Agenda & Minutes Action Item
3. Public Comment
4. Presentation: NDSU Land Acknowledgement and Indigenous Efforts
5. Presentation: ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
6. Subcommittees and Work Plan Action Item
7. COVID-19 Updates
8. Old Business
 - a. Indigenous Association Update
 - b. Indigenous Peoples' Day – October 12, 2020
9. Announcements
10. Staff Report
11. Next Meeting – October 1, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSION
FROM: TIA BRASETH, PLANNING COORDINATOR
DATE: AUGUST 28, 2020
SUBJECT: MEETING REPORT

- Item 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- Item 2. Approve Agenda & Minutes**
- Item 3. Public Comment**
- Item 4. Presentation: NDSU Land Acknowledgement and Indigenous Efforts**
An NDSU administrator will provide a brief update on NDSU's recent land acknowledgement statement and other Indigenous efforts.
- Item 5. Presentation: ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health**
Tanya RedRoad, Parent Coordinator with ND Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, will provide an overview of the organization's work.
- Item 6. Subcommittees and Work Plan**
See attached memo.
- Item 7. COVID-19 Updates**
See attached memo.
- Item 8a. Old Business: Indigenous Association Update**
An Indigenous Association representative will provide an update.
- Item 8b. Old Business: Indigenous Peoples' Day – October 12, 2020**
The next Indigenous Peoples' Day Planning Committee virtual meeting will be at 1:30pm on Thursday, September 3. Contact Catlyn with the Planning Department for call-in information.

This year's event will be all virtual. If you have an idea for a virtual program to facilitate or include, please submit your idea to the planning committee.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2020 Gladys Ray Indigenous Peoples' Day Award – see attachment. Nomination forms are due by Friday, September 18. Digital forms can be accessed on the Native American Commission webpage, and hard copies are available at the Planning Department in Fargo City Hall.
- Item 9. Announcements**
- Item 10. Staff Report**
See attachment. Chair King will open the floor to commission members for any questions or discussion related to the August staff update.
- Item 11. Next Meeting – October 1, 2020**

**BOARD OF NATIVE AMERICAN COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES**

Regular Meeting:

Thursday, August 6, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Native American Commissioners of the City of Fargo, North Dakota, was held in the Sky Commons Meeting Room at 12:00 p.m., Thursday, August 6, 2020.

The Native American Commissioners present or absent were as follows:

Present: Sharon White Bear (via conference call), John Strand, Sonya Donahue, Anna Johnson, Lenore King, Rebecca Knutson, Chalsey Snyder (via conference call), Whitney Fear (via conference call), Heather Keeler (via conference call)

Absent: None

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair King welcomed Members to the meeting and introductions were made.

Item 2. Approve Order of Agenda & Minutes

Member Snyder moved the Order of Agenda be approved as presented. Second by Member Fear. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Member Knutson moved the minutes of the July 9, 2020 Native American Commission meeting be approved. Second by Member Fear. All Members present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Item 3: Bylaws Update

Chair King noted that the proposed bylaws are included in the packet.

Member Strand present.

Member Johnson moved to approve the bylaws as proposed. Second by Member Snyder. On call of the roll Members Fear, Johnson, Strand, Snyder, Knutson, and King voted aye. Absent and not voting: Members White Bear, Keeler, and Donahue. The motion was declared carried.

Item 4. Presentation: Fargo Police Community Engagement Team

Lieutenant George Vinson and Sergeant Cristie Jacobsen gave a presentation on the Fargo Police Community Engagement Team providing an overview of what they are, what they do, and why they do it.

Member Keeler present.

Lt. Vinson noted that the team has Community Trust Officers, School Resource Officers, a Parks Officer, and a Cultural Liaison. He provided an overview noting a main purpose is to build trust in the schools and the community. He stated the team is overseen by Sgt. Jacobsen with himself as the Command Officer. This team was created in January 2020 to streamline efforts to build connection and trust in the community.

Member Donahue present.

Lt. Vinson stated relationship building in their main goal, and he provided an overview of events and programs that are ran through the Community Engagement Team. He shared that they care about the community and its future.

Lt. Vinson noted that recent federal grant funding has helped to fund programming, such as basketball and boxing. He stated this programming can teach kids social and emotional skills to take into their environments.

Sgt. Jacobsen provided a background of the Cultural Liaison Officer position. She noted they are open to being educated and want to understand the dynamic of the Native American tribes, and want to partner with the Native American Commission to collaborate and fill the gaps to build and strengthen the community.

Lt. Vinson noted if there are youth or adults that could benefit from some of the programming the Community Engagement Team is providing, please connect them with the team. They want to work together.

Member Johnson inquired what work is being done with the Native American Homeless population downtown.

Lt. Vinson noted they have handed out water and blankets in the past. Sgt. Jacobsen stated they are purposeful to make sure their officers are aware of programs that are already provided to make connections to the resources available. They stated the department works to balance engagement, connections to resources, and providing officers with crisis intervention training.

Member White Bear present.

Member Johnson redirected her question asking what is being done when officers are called Downtown to a group of Native Americans, and what the protocol is.

Lt. Vinson noted that it depends on what is happening in the situation. They try to meet the people where they are in life, and not where someone else thinks they should be. He noted they want to build the relationship to connect to the proper service providers. They try to avoid arrest unless warranted. Sgt. Jacobsen stated that they want to get to the bottom of what is happening in the safest way possible.

Member Strand questioned at what point is the Mobile Outreach Unit brought into a situation.

Lt. Vinson stated the Mobile Outreach Unit proactively builds relationships by driving around downtown, and there are a few ways they get called in, with businesses and the Police, just being two of them.

Member Snyder asked how to obtain the contact information regarding the programming available. Lt. Vinson noted the information would be left with the Commission for them to distribute.

Member Snyder questioned what the statistical breakdown is for the community of Fargo. She stated last she looked 2% of the population was Native American, 26% of the criminality in the City was from Native Americans, and if those statistics were correct, how is tracking done.

Lt. Vinson explained the statistics are tracked locally, by state government, and federally, and he did not have those numbers on hand. He noted there are programs aimed to reduce the racial and criminal disparity at all points of the criminal justice system. He stated the Fargo Police recently created the Fargo Police Diversion Program in an effort to reduce the ratio in racial disparity. The program works to divert kids away from the juvenile court system into programming that can address their needs.

Member Snyder inquired how many members of the Community Engagement Team were persons of color. Lt. Vinson noted that one of the 12 members was a person of color. Member Snyder questioned if anything was being doing to recruit people of color to serve as police officers.

Member Snyder further questioned if the cultural competency training received by the City of Fargo was from trainers coming from communities of color.

Sgt. Jacobsen noted that there are have been various trainings received and a Native American community member did present a six-hour training on Native American culture. She shared they have had training on other various entities as well and they are doing what they can to evolve.

Member Snyder proposed the question on what can the Native American Commission and the Native American community do to better assist the Fargo Police Department to understand the situations in the Native American community.

Sgt. Jacobsen stated to invite the Fargo Police into the conversations and to invite them to the events so they can be educated. She also noted if the Native American Commission is doing work, Fargo Police would like to know about it so they can be connected to what is already being done, bridge gaps, and strengthen programming.

Member White Bear questioned what the Police are doing yearly for cultural training. She also stated that it is important for engagement to have Police attendance at events, not just in uniform, but to engage in the event as a guest.

Sgt. Jacobsen noted they want to expand and grow, and to engage in the events. She also added that specific Native American training does not happen every year, but that trainings are occurring. They are working to make sure all forms of diversity are being studied, and getting as much education as they can onto the table. She noted that computer trainings and education are sent out to Police staff.

Member White Bear stated that most readings are inaccurate. She would like to see incidents avoided, and feels that in our state there should be more cultural awareness for Native American.

Member Keeler noted frustration in the statistics shared by Member Snyder. She stated those statics indicate that there is a problem and bias in the community. She questioned what is being done about implicit bias and racial profiling in our community. She also noted that representation matters when we talk about change, and that a conversation should be started that a cultural liaison should come from some of the underrepresented populations.

Member Johnson stated it was great to have the officers at today's meeting and a desire to have them return for the conversations to continue.

Item 5. Old Business

a. FM Native Programs Update

Indigenous Association Principal Executive Officer Audra Stonefish provided an update that their website <http://www.indgns.org>, and Facebook page were recently launched. She noted work is currently being done to connect with community members and local businesses and make connections.

Ms. Stonefish gave an overview of upcoming projects being developed. She shared that a Native American youth art group to create a mosaic piece is being put together and noted the program will be created with flexibility to be held in-person or online. Additionally, she shared a women's 40+ online group is being formed to strengthen and connect the community, as well as a homeless outreach program to host a feed. She stated they are trying to build sustainability for programming.

Ms. Stonefish added they are also working on getting voting information out into the community, fundraising, a donation drive, and an online cooking class.

Member Johnson inquired if there was a physical location secured. Ms. Stonefish stated not at this time.

Member Fear absent.

b. Indigenous Peoples' Day

Chair King noted the event is still tentatively planned to be held.

Member Johnson voiced that she felt like the Indigenous Peoples' Day celebrations should be cancelled due to the COVID-19 situation.

Chair King noted that Member Donahue is the contact person for the planning of the event.

Member Johnson absent.

Member White Bear indicated that if the event does take part, she would like to be a part of the planning so that some sort of activity happens for the day.

Item 6. Public Comment

No public comment was presented.

Item 7. Announcements

Member Strand noted a topic for future discussion regarding North Dakota State University (NDSU) being located on Indigenous land.

Member Keeler stated at the January Native American Commission meeting, a group from NDSU came before the Board seeking input and support on narrowing down a land acknowledgment statement. She noted that the President of NDSU is on board to create a task force on campus to do even more than just the land acknowledgement. She is open to being on a future meeting agenda to give further updates.

Chair King read a statement regarding a recent personal statement she gave concerning the disciplinary actions of Tori Holland. She stated she did not intend to speak on behalf of the Native American Commission and expressed her apologies. She noted the importance of working together and having respect for culture.

Member Strand indicated that he would continue to refer those looking for a representative of the Native American Commission to Chair King.

Member White Bear stated she believes as Members they should be notified if the Native American Commission name is being put out there. She would like to see the lines of communication be more open.

Member Strand stated that care needs to be given to the careful interaction online with Board communication, and discussion as to follow open record and public meeting laws.

Member Snyder noted the Bush Foundation Community Innovation Grant applications are being accepted beginning September 3 through October 6, and encourages community members and organizations to apply.

Member Keeler added the Bush Foundation Fellowship applications open on August 18.

Ms. Stonefish shared the Native American youth art program is scheduled for August 26 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. at Island Park.

Sgt. Jacobsen stated they are wanting to be accurate with information that is being shared, grow and develop partnerships, and continue dialogues. She noted they recognize the need for change, and want to continue dialogue.

Item 8. Staff Report

The staff report was included in the packet for review.

Item 9. Adjourn – Next Meeting: September 3, 2020

The time of adjournment was 1:15 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fargo Native American Commission
FROM: Catlyn Christie, Assistant Planner
DATE: August 28, 2020
RE: Subcommittees and Work Plan

Since passing the bylaws last meeting, staff has received subcommittee preferences from every member. Accordingly, subcommittees are recommended as follows:

Education & Cultural Awareness: Heather Keeler, Rebecca Knutson, Chalsey Snyder

Health & Wellness: Whitney Fear, Anna Johnson, Lenore King

Housing: Sonya Donahue, Sharon White Bear

Several guests have been invited to the September NAC meeting to provide a brief introduction and summary of how their work pertains to these subcommittees, including representatives from Fargo/West Fargo Public Schools and Moorhead Schools Indian Education, Gladys Ray Shelter, and Fargo Police. We encourage you to self-organize and build community partnerships related to your subcommittees.

As the bylaws state, each committee should include one NAC member who will serve as the committee chair. Committees are asked to report back to the full NAC quarterly. As a reminder, no action may be taken at standing committee meetings unless previously approved by NAC at large meetings. Any recommendations for action outside previous approval are asked to be brought before the NAC for discussion/vote.

The committee chair and committee are to determine committee goals yearly, including public relations-related goals. The NAC shall determine each committee chair, who will be responsible for organizing quarterly meetings to include community partners and members and will serve as the official contact for the community regarding their designated committee. If an emergency situation requires additional meeting and response, it is the responsibility of the committee chair to organize all additional meetings with the Chair and Vice Chair of NAC.

Recommended Action: Approve committee chair for each committee, or table until next month after further discussion.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fargo Native American Commission

FROM: Catlyn Christie, Assistant Planner

DATE: August 28, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Updates

The Planning Department continues to play a role in the local COVID-19 response, including defining a budget for Fargo's CDBG-CV funds, State funds, and Social Service funds. Planning Coordinator Tia Braseth has conducted over a dozen interviews with agencies to analyze their priority needs. Attached is an overview of the approved budget and activities, including a summary of findings from the interviews.

Also related to COVID-19, there has been much discussion about the need for a downtown drop-in center to provide a place for people to go. Per the FM Coalition to End Homelessness [2020 State of Homelessness](#) report, "With 19% of the homeless population identifying as Black or African American and 20% identifying as American Indian, we see significant racial disparities as these populations are overrepresented compared to the general [FM area] population. The US Census estimates show only 6.1% of the general population identify as Black or African American alone and 1.4% as American Indian and Alaska Native alone ([Census Estimates](#)). More information about the drop-in center possibilities will be at the September 8 City Commission meeting.

In addition, other attendees of today's meeting may wish to provide a brief update on their agency's COVID-19 response, especially that which relates to Indigenous health outcomes.

Recommended Action: No action at this time, but consider these issues while creating subcommittee goals and work plans.

21

MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF CITY COMMISSIONERS

FROM: NICOLE CRUTCHFIELD, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
TIA BRASETH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COORDINATOR

DATE: AUGUST 19, 2020

**RE: APPROVAL OF PROPOSED BUDGET & ACTIVITIES FOR COVID-19
 QUARANTINE SUPPORT, PREVENTION, PREPARATION, AND RESPONSE**

The Department of Planning & Development is proposing the following activities and estimated budgets in response to COVID-19. Funding is available through the Red River COVID-19 Task Force (RRTF) for Community Isolation and Quarantine Support (\$3,500,000 allocation) and through the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) (\$1,349,253.00 allocation) from the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). Funds are also available through the City of Fargo Social Service Funds (\$100,000 allocation).

Planning staff has been involved in various conversations with community partners and the greatest needs are addressed through this proposal. Based on staff's findings as well as our understanding about future concerns for the upcoming fall and winter, staff is suggesting the allocations below to focus specifically on food and shelter for people impacted by increased economic and pandemic outcomes. A summary of this outreach is included with this memo.

| Agency | Need | Urgency | Fund | Est. Amt. to Fund |
|---|---|-------------|----------------------------------|--|
| SouthEastern ND Community Action Agency | Housing and Utility Assistance | 1 - 30 days | CDBG-CV | \$205,000.00 |
| Presentation Partners in Housing | Housing and Utility Assistance | 1 - 30 days | CDBG-CV | \$205,000.00 |
| Gladys Ray Shelter | Bunks with separation panels | 1 - 30 days | CDBG-CV | \$50,000.00 |
| Gladys Ray Shelter | Mobile Outreach Vehicle & Operations | 1 - 30 days | RRTF | \$100,000.00 |
| Family Health | Mobile Clinic Supplies - Medical/Dental/ COVID-19 Testing | 1 - 30 days | RRTF | \$100,000.00 |
| YWCA | Quarantine-related Renovations | 1 - 30 days | RRTF | \$350,000.00 |
| Great Plains Food Bank | Food, Equipment, Staff | 2 - 60 days | RRTF | \$400,000.00 |
| FM Food Pantry | Food & COVID-19-related Technology | 2 - 60 days | RRTF | \$200,000.00 |
| FM Food Pantry | PPE Assistance | 1 - 30 days | RRTF | \$1,000.00 |
| Youthworks Shelter | PPE Assistance | 1 - 30 days | RRTF | \$1,000.00 |
| Arbors at McCormick Park | PPE Assistance | 1 - 30 days | RRTF | \$1,000.00 |
| Metro-wide | Drop-in, Quarantine, Winter Overflow Building, Project Management | ASAP | CDBG, RRTF, Social Service Funds | Analysis and coordination underway (1-3.5 million) |
| Contingency/Other Future Projects | (e.g., education support for distance learning, food reimbursement costs) | As needed | RRTF | Some preliminary discussions underway (100-500 thousand) |

Recommended Motion: Approve proposed COVID-19 Budget & Activities.

Covid-19 Summary of Community Needs

As part of the work of the Red River Valley Covid-19 Task Force Education and Outreach subcommittee, several organizations that work with special and low-income populations were contacted. They were asked how covid-19 has impacted their organizations, how they were responding, and what gaps they were seeing and hearing from employees, partners, and clients. The following is a summary of the gaps, needs, and concerns heard, as well as a brief summary of each organization's current status in terms of covid.

Gaps, Needs, & Concerns Heard

- 1. Homeless quarantine/triple wave may hit homeless community** – evictions, increase in coronavirus cases, and winter. With the potential of rising cases this fall and limited isolation options, where are people going to safely isolate? Churches United, the only shelter in the metro that takes families (unless single parent fleeing domestic violence – goes to YWCA), is already at their winter overflow numbers. The others are up and down with capacity. Only 5-9 quarantine rooms in all shelters, 5 of which are in New Life's medical respite unit. All shelters have had positive cases since March. Other shelters at lower numbers partially because people are afraid to go to shelters in the midst of covid-19. Several have noted that this is not a shelter issue, this is a public health issue. Shelters feeling the weight to take on things that should be addressed by public health. Once the shelters take on public health items, they are likely to remain in the shelter's responsibility permanently.

Possible solutions heard?

- Drop-in/isolation center – Would need metro-wide effort to fit-up old Family Fare building in Moorhead as a drop-in, isolation, and overflow strategy. Also has a kitchen.
 - Hotels – buy building, rent floor or rooms, but problematic for staffing (linear architecture constraints – hard to staff) and costly.
 - Housing – get more people housed or keep them housed.
- 2. Evictions and lack of funding for housing assistance and homeless prevention** – despite additional awards of funding. State of ND's Rent Bridge program has helped, but also hearing that not everyone can access, not easy for landlords to navigate or sign up, and the number of applications significantly outweighs the funding available.

Possible solutions heard?

- More housing assistance funding needed (for direct assistance and added staff) for rent, mortgages, and utilities
- 3. Homeless healthcare** – mobile healthcare outreach is desperately needed to ensure that people who are homeless are being treated, addressing chronic disease, getting prescriptions, being tested if needed.

Possible solutions heard?

- Buy mobile outreach unit equipped with medical, dental, covid-testing, and PPE. Find people who are unsheltered.

4. **Food insecurity uncertainties** – without knowing the corona forecast, it's possible that food levels may drop. Pantry unable to have two of its major spring food drives and is already at the lower food supply months they see in the fall.

Possible solutions heard?

- Additional funding may be needed for food. Contactless food drive?

5. **New American/refugee needs** – in addition to housing assistance, other major needs heard include financial assistance for businesses, childcare, employment searching services, education/outreach services on coronavirus (e.g., signage in different languages, over the phone education, food delivery, PPE), and remote communication tools like phones, computers, and internet. Also hearing that community is experiencing a lot of stigma and fear. Members of the community do not want to get tested for coronavirus as a result. Some also related to being afraid of citizenship questions and the fear of being deported.

Possible solutions heard?

- Additional funding for direct expenses and educational outreach.

6. **PPE/added cleaning expenses** – while not everyone is in need of additional PPE, some agencies have dwindling supplies, with limited funds to add more, including the food pantry, New American/refugee community, Adult Learning Center, Arbors at McCormick, and Youthworks. Also, every agency is spending additional time and funds on cleaning routines, whether it is hired out or in-house between supplies and staff time.

Possible solutions heard?

- Additional funding or reimbursement from City to organizations building their own PPE kits.

Other Information Heard

1. **Mass testing** – State of ND and Family Health are pulling away from it and it never really made it to Moorhead in Minnesota. NDSU will be doing mass testing 8/18-8/23 for students, staff, and faculty.
2. **Masks/face coverings** – NDSU, everyone required to wear one when in class. Not mandated yet, but definitely in classroom for face to face teaching. State of Minnesota mandated mask wearing. City of Fargo has citywide mask recommendation.

- 3. Clay County Public Health & Moorhead** – Clay Health is working on building trust in New American/refugee community and other marginalized people. Doing overall staff training on historical trauma.
- 4. Lutheran Social Services** – Received ORR \$30,000 grant, most of which will go to PPE and they are willing to partner with others if there are needs.
- 5. City of Moorhead and State of ND** – EDA grants for small businesses.

Organization Discussion Summaries – July 2020

Arbors & McCormick (formerly Community Homes) – Cleaning routines have been amplified in the common areas of apartment buildings (gloves are \$1/pair, very costly and hard to come by), had to hire outside cleaning service (unbudgeted expense), only emergency maintenance is being performed in units (i.e., toilets, fixtures, kitchen appliances, etc.), PPE is not readily available for tenants, office still closed (open by appointment only), currently working on partnership with ESHARA to deliver onsite, outdoor covid education to residents. No one will lose their apartment due to loss of income or employment. Office staff busy with income change reporting. Set up hotline for residents for information on basic services (i.e., childcare, food, employment, healthcare, testing, rental assistance, etc.).

Needs: PPE for residents; gloves for maintenance staff; funding for outside cleaning service; A/C system cleanout for air quality, education for residents (planning in progress).

Point of Contact:

Sarah Bagley, ED of Chisom Housing Group, sbagley@chisomhousing.org, (202) 422-0947

Great Plains Food Bank – Nationwide food supply chain, safety measures, and decrease of volunteers and food drives have substantially impacted the food bank. Having to purchase semi-loads of food to meet demand (25k per truck, needed 12 so far). Unexpected costs, limited food storage options, inability to continue food choice model for beneficiaries because of social distancing requirements (had to pre-pack boxes). Through August, people are able to get a produce box at Fargo Dome without income verification (drive-thru service). This is a partnership with the USDA's Farmers to Families program for people in need as a result of covid-19. Overall lull at moment, expecting surge after added stimulus and food benefits end on July 31. Increase in first timers (25%) and 44-79% increase in clientele at partner food pantries and the GPFB Mobile Food Pantry. Hired temporary staff. Not sure how much the need will be, but anticipating a surge after July 31.

Needs: Funding for food, supplies, truck, trailer, lift gate, and possible temp staff.

Point of Contact:

Marcia Paulson, CDO, mpaulson@greatplainsfoodbank.org, (701) 476-9101

Family Health & Homeless Health – Had to change to new model of care for patients, particularly with telehealth. Response has been entirely on covid itself. Just now getting back to somewhat normal operations. Dentists are on full, other health providers coming back slowly. It will be several months before all providers are back on site. Over a million dollars in lost revenue because there was a hold on patients with chronic disease management. Homeless Health was closed to be used as an isolation triage location for patients with covid symptoms and unsure when Homeless Health will be available again. Nurses are in shelters and mobile medical/dental/testing outreach is being considered. Unsure where people who are homeless are now and if they are still getting their needed treatment, especially with all the general gathering spaces closed and social distancing requirements. Red River Task Force doing covid testing onsite and disseminating care kits for those in quarantine.

Needs: Homeless mobile outreach (including funding for ongoing supplies to stock), funding to make up for revenue loss.

Point of Contact:

Patrick Gulbranson, CEO, pgulbranson@famhealthcare.org, (701) 239-2285

Churches United – Already at their winter overflow numbers. Shelter full every night, many women, guests with serious, untreated mental illness with really problematic behaviors that take a lot staff supervision and time. With potential of increase in covid cases, winter, and evictions, it's likely that both homelessness and covid could increase. Ideally, there would be a drop-in/overflow/quarantine option, could be a metro-wide effort to purchase and fit-up existing building or build new. Unsheltered people need access to warm food, water, laundry, showers, toilets, and other resources. Currently, passing out 90 sack lunches per day because kitchen closed (was 150/month pre-covid). Some bottled water donated. Overall, already stretched to the maximum.

Needs: Homeless quarantine/winter overflow/drop-in center, homeless prevention assistance (via service providers, to help people stay housed and out of shelters), legislative needs include mass testing capabilities in MN and keeping eviction moratorium in place, funding (hiring temp. staff, lack of volunteers), needs two HVAC units replaced.

Point of Contact:

Sue Kosterman, ED, pastorsue@churches-united.org, (218) 236-0372 #238

Youthworks – Access to emergency beds and housing (for youth over 18) is more limited during this time. Youth shelter (under 18) is at 35-40% full, trying to keep distance between youth. Not uncommon being at 40% in the summer. Shelter is likely to see uptick if schools open this fall. Greatest challenges are the distance guidelines (for health safety) to meet with youth face to face, the need to provide a lot of education on covid, and the extra staff hours needed to implement additional procedures in place (i.e., temps, screening, cleaning, extra outreach shifts, staffing for separate quarantine shelter, etc.). Drop-in process has been modified and was moved outside. Offering drop-in services 3 days a week for food, hygiene supplies, flip phones for safety, and services (grocery drop-off upon request). With no school, accessing services has been more difficult for youth. Some hotel vouchers through federal funding. Quarantine shelter space available for youth under 18.

Needs: Funding for hotel vouchers, to hire more PT staff, to offer hazard pay to street outreach team and shelter staff, and to get more PPE and cleaning supplies.

Point of Contact:

Jessica Fleck, Assistant Executive Director, jfleck@youthworksnd.org, (701) 232-8558

Emergency Food Pantry – Doing curbside model in parking lot. Unable to do food choice option as used in past, pre-packed boxes. Concerns about food waste with people not selecting their own food. Serving about 800-1000 families each month, down from 1000-1500 families pre-covid. Concerned that after benefits end July 31, there will be a surge. Early on, pantry was able to give more food so clients could go longer between food pick-ups. Pantry plans to do this again when clients or covid cases increase. Decrease in volunteers, concerned about volunteers moving forward. Providing masks to volunteers (required to wear) and offer to clients. Would like to install pager/intercom system so fewer people would need to be working a shift (many in parking lot checking people in, plus inside prepping food orders and sorting deliveries). Technology could streamline. Missed two spring food drives, supply already at fall levels, which is less than summer. Food supply line is taking longer than usual. If client is positive for covid-19, food baskets are delivered to door step as coordinated with client.

Needs: Funding for technology and pager/intercom system, food, toilet paper, soap, PPE.

Point of Contact:

Stacie Loegering, ED, stacie@emergencyfoodpantry.com, (701) 237-9337

FM Coalition to End Homelessness – Policy action and organizing people to call governor on eviction moratoriums. Staying on top of what's going on in MN & ND. Finding new ways of building relationships, not being a direct service provider, found ways to alleviate workload of direct providers (i.e., coordinating, planning, organizing meetings, calls, etc.). State of ND moved all homeless quarantine response to local control, hotel is offline but could be brought back quickly if needed. Shelter facilities are ill-suited for pandemics, architecturally and operationally. Shelters thinking about how they can be better suited to quarantine in the future. Helpful that it is summer so people can be outside, but winter is a concern, particularly with evictions coming.

Needs: Funding to add staff and adapt training online, generally secure funding (fundraising events have not happened), and to identify how to help partners with gaps and how to prepare for the future.

Point of Contact:

Cody Schuler, ED, cody@fmhomeless.org, (701) 936-7171

Lakes & Prairies Community Action Partnership – Limited face to face visits with clients, generally outdoors. Provided phones and phone cards, food, toilet paper, and other hard to find items to clients. Also offering client delivery. Seniors still getting commodity boxes. For housing program, advocates going to units and showing clients remotely or have rental manager show remotely. Homeless/prevention program completely over the phone. Homeless outreach is outdoors or over the phone if in a shelter. Expecting surge in callers with evictions. Many new callers/first time crisis situations; unaware of how to access emergency resources. Seeing very high bills and rents due because people are so far behind. About 50% of callers are in crisis resulting from covid-19. Two summer classroom for children (limited access based on numbers to space out). Families also facing childcare needs. Just started senior rural bus route program to get seniors to medical appointments for example.

Rainbow Bridge running again. Added whole family resource navigator position, which knows a little about every program, integrated with front desk. Adding two more staff to the Homework Starts with Home program for Moorhead schools.

Needs: Flexible direct assistance for housing/utility bills, transportation, childcare, deposits, etc., navigating technology, long term to connect people with living wage jobs.

Point of Contact:

Emma Schmit, Housing Director, emmas@caplp.org, (218) 512-1564

SENDCAA – Not as busy as expected, likely due to Rent Bridge and unemployment stimulus still in effect. This is now changing as eviction notices and utility disconnections are being issued. In addition, households who have already exhausted rent bridge but are still in need are now applying. People in poverty are in limbo and need help applying for unemployment, getting help with rent, getting food and assistance with childcare. Navigating needs through the phone has been difficult. Existing utility, weatherization, rental assistance, childcare, housing/homeless, and case management have all ramped up. Contracted with 211 to screen callers, a lot of first time callers. Have delivered food to seniors, but not those who are covid-19 positive. Salvation Army and Presentation Partners in Housing are doing their best but are facing the same issues as SENDCAA.

Needs: Direct assistance on basic necessities (i.e., rent, food, utilities, transportation, etc.), additional capacity.

Point of Contact:

Sarah Hasbargen, Self-Sufficiency Coordinator, sarahh@sendcaa.org, (701) 232-2452

Lutheran Social Services – Ended all in person interactions with clients (i.e., counseling, group sessions, gambling, New American), some suspended and some online. Some online programming has been successful, while some has been marginally successful. Phased reopening process will begin soon. Covid has impacted refugee services and basically their entire support system. The impact is both on the business and family side and is likely contributing to mental health issues. Concerned about this and abuse at home. Relationships between employers and employee are a concern, trust issues. Covid has been a stigma for refugees. For businesses, not able to access payroll protection program because of bank partnership requirements. Additionally, programs for loans and services, interest is an issue for Muslim culture. Struggle assisting remotely with internet or device set-ups for people who have not been using the technology. Remote counseling services does not work for kids under a certain age. School support online, but not as effective as in-person. Some of the clients struggling with technology will be able to call ahead and get services/access. Doing home visits on special occasions. Doing contact tracing in partnership with health department, connecting directly with families, close contacts, employers for the past two months. ESHARA and quarantine support is great for response. Also, it may be indirect, but on a global scale, refugees not coming to communities. Not sure how long that will be, only on emergency basis right now or for reunification.

Needs: Funding in general, becoming more efficient in program delivery, and PPE.

Point of Contact:

Dan Hannaher, Interim Director, New American Services, danh@lssnd.org, (701) 271-1604

New Life Center – Increased staffing. Have isolation dorm for covid-positive guests. All staff and guests getting covid tested every week onsite by National Guard. Greatest uncertainty is homeless quarantine. This is a public health problem, not a shelter problem. Performing contact tracing to best of their ability, while working closely with Cass Public Health. Had to close thrift store, loss of \$35,000 a month as a result. Not sure if they can hold fall fundraiser in October, \$150,000 revenue budgeted for that event. Access to more mental health counseling for employees in this field would be ideal.

Needs: Funding for increased staff, handwashing station, and supplies (doing okay with PPE).

Point of Contact:

Rob Swiers, ED, rob.swiers@fargonlc.org, (701) 532-4441

Presentation Partners in Housing –

Housing Navigation Program: Services have not changed, just how they are provided. Mostly everything virtual, limited face to face. Internet and telephones provided to clients, with updated minutes each month. Assisted with prescription fills so they clients could stay home, delivered a lot of food in beginning, food cards and bus passes were also provided early on.

Financial Assistance Program: This service is being provided virtually and via phone. Many working poor people with 1-2 minimum wage jobs, denied unemployment. Single parent households had to quit work to homeschool, fallen behind on many months of rent. First Link referring clients, as well as Dakota Medical Foundation and local news at times. In June, 48% of applicants were first time applicants. There has been a drop in people applying, but the level of need people have is much higher. People are much farther behind on rents than in the past. Need to get prevention/diversion program up and running to get people housed. Unsheltered homeless will be the focus. Much funding has gone to shelters, food, and covid.

Needs: Funding for staff on front end prevention, direct assistance to clients (i.e., housing, rents, utility bills, food, communication devices, transportation, etc.), and more PPE.

Point of Contact:

Cheri Gerken, ED, cheri@fmppih.org, (701) 730-4556

YWCA – No volunteers onsite, lost revenue from thrift store, unable to take in-kind donations. There are a lot of added processes, at one point staffed a hotel site for quarantined people who were homeless and fleeing domestic violence. Need new quarantine space because State of North Dakota is backing away from engagement and need to come up with community solution. Has some quarantine space at shelter, but not with private showers and toilets. Uptick in domestic violence reports because people are stuck at home together, up 19% from same time period as last year. At quarantine capacity with CDC guidelines and expecting surge. Unable to do fundraising events. Offering food baskets and added pop up food pantries in West Fargo and Fargo. Offering transportation and boredom kits for kids and adults.

Needs: Quarantine space for homeless, storage space for apartment furnishings, exploring private bathroom/shower renovations to provide better quarantine options, increase capacity, funding to staff non-YWCA properties with case managers.

Point of Contact:

Erin Prochnow, CEO, eprochnow@ywcacassclay.org, (701) 232-2547

United Way – Has a coronavirus response fund. Raised 80k, all going to homeless diversion and prevention initiative. This is a partnership between CAP agencies and Presentation Partners in Housing. Proactively working on ways to ensure to share work with the community. If people do not go back to work or there is another shutdown, wants to ensure they can still share message and impact with people across community. Developing ways to engage companies with digital fundraising content. Goal is to prevent and divert families from homelessness and support the nonprofit community overall-a long term shut down will ripple effects in this sector, especially in terms of fundraising and nonprofits' ability to deliver services (i.e., health services, after school programming, homelessness, senior programs, food, etc.). ESHARA partners are helpful. General education for New Americans is lacking in response to covid. Concerned about shelters and winter overflow with Churches United at capacity now. Concerned about added benefits (federal unemployment, eviction moratoriums) ending and the impact it will have on individuals potentially experiencing homelessness.

Needs: Add staffing positions to the homeless prevention and diversion programs. Prevent onslaught of crisis. Employment, childcare, etc. Incentivize Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund.

Point of Contact:

Thomas Hill, VP Community Impact, THill@unitedwaycassclay.org, (701) 237-5050

Lake Agassiz Regional Council – concerned about smaller communities operating in a more “back to normal” way (i.e., open bars and restaurants, little PPE and mask wearing, etc.). Things are a lot different than in Fargo. This could lead to spikes in covid. Overall, agency is focusing on small business loans. Businesses that really need the funds are not the ones getting it due to access issues. They are trying to help those owners through loan processes. They see an uptick in people seeking their

programs. Added one staff member and plan to add another depending on a grant. Eventually wants to partner on micro lending for New American/refugee businesses.

Needs: Unrestricted loan funds, add staff member.

Point of Contact:

Amber Metz, ED, Amber@lakeagassiz.com, (701) 235-1197

City of Moorhead – Agency impact, relied on typical FEMA model as a response, but unsure if it was effective in getting the work done that needed to be done for a pandemic. Covid is not a cyclical problem like a flood, so planning and response was different than a previously experienced emergency. A covid command team was developed and it meets weekly. The team and those that updated the team on a regular bases include Moorhead Public Service, Downtown Moorhead Inc., Emergency Management, department leadership, and the City Manager. Trying to figure out how to re-open City Hall. Architectural barriers making it difficult (i.e., 2 elevators, high rise, small lobbies, small Chambers, etc.). Installing counter shields, supplying face masks, sanitation stations, sanitation services, etc.

In a public comment period until August 3 for CARES Act funding. Proposing 2 million of it goes to small business and community/non-profit organization support. Also seeing areas of need in childcare, housing payments, and food insecurity. Using CDBG-CV for housing assistance through Lakes & Prairies CAP and broadband access in partnership with Clay County HRA.

Did an emergency ordinance to house more than 4 unrelated in duplex next to Dorothy Day House operated by Churches United. More vulnerable populations were housed in duplex, not necessarily those with symptoms. Services next door at Dorothy Day. Churches United was able to send some guests needing quarantine to a hotel in Moorhead. City of Moorhead Police Department worked with the organization and security measures at the hotel.

Needs: Business support and re-opening City Hall.

Point of Contact:

Joshua Huffman, CD Program Administrator, joshua.huffman@cityofmoorhead.com, (218) 299-5375

New American Consortium –

Social Services Support: Seeing increasingly high need for day-to-day living expenses. Many people out of jobs, even more difficult with school starting up and kids needing more attention with distance learning. Unemployment Benefits not making ends meet, especially with larger household sizes; Leniency from landlords, utility companies, etc. no longer offered, and have had poor success with eligibility with other assistance programs.

A handful of clients have been COVID-positive, and is a growing concern as social gatherings increase. Some prefer home remedies to hospital treatment. If there are active cases in the community, knowing they can receive some assistance for their family during positive quarantine time with the criteria of

being tested and confirmed will motivate individuals to seek testing, and then they can get linked with ESHARA and help provide a safety net.

Distance Learning Support: To this point, all financial aid and effort has been focused toward working adults; youth have been forgotten; they are struggling immensely with academics and mental health, especially minority children. Through early-COVID \$10K grant from FMAF, the Consortium has been running one of only virtual mentoring programs. Many mentees early on expressed depression, so they quickly adapted to virtual programming. They want to pay stipend for mentors; dependent on volunteers but recruitment has been hard.

PPE: More masks, hand sanitizers, thermometers to distribute would be helpful. Within two days of August, they distributed 50 masks.

Needs: Flexible direct assistance for housing/utility bills, transportation, etc., funding to hire more case managers; funding to hire mentors for students; PPE for clients

Point of Contact:

Maryann Allen, Executive Director, Mallen@aipinitatives.org, 701-478-3636

Last updated 8.11.20



2020 GLADYS RAY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY AWARD NOMINATION



The Fargo Native American Commission is now seeking nominations for individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Indigenous Peoples of Fargo. The recipient will be formally recognized at Indigenous Peoples Day on Monday, October 12, 2020. The deadline for returning nomination forms is **Friday, September 18, 2020**.

Background: The Gladys Ray Award was created in honor of Gladys Shingobe Ray. In her family’s words, she was a dedicated lifelong human rights advocate and volunteer, who served her community through involvement in many organizations and by assisting in the development of many programs. She advocated for all people, especially American Indians, children, and the homeless. She served as a mentor and advisor to many individuals and for many projects. Gladys was devoted to sharing her love, wisdom and strength with all of her family, friends and all she knew.

To nominate someone for the Gladys Ray Award, please complete the information below and return this form by September 18, 2020 by email to Planning@FargoND.gov, or by mail to the Native American Commission, City of Fargo Planning Department, 225 4th St. N, Fargo, ND 58102. For more information, please contact the Native American Commission at 701.241.1474.

Date: _____ Name of Nominee: _____

Nominee Occupation: _____

Nominee Address: _____

Nominee Phone #: _____ Nominee E-mail: _____

Your Name: _____ Your Phone #: _____

Please provide a description of who you are nominating and why you feel this person should receive the Gladys Ray Award (use additional sheet if necessary).

NOTE: Should the nominee be chosen, the information provided will be used for the award ceremony and publicity. Therefore, it is important that all information be correct, complete and specific. Current members of the Fargo Native American Commission cannot be nominated for an award.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fargo Native American Commission
FROM: Catlyn Christie, Assistant Planner
DATE: August 28, 2020
RE: August Staff Report

This agenda item is an effort to summarize and memorialize issues, concerns, or staff action related to the work of the Native American Commission since the last meeting. During the meeting, the Chair may open for discussion or questions concerning these items.

Staff Items

1. Human Relations Commission Work Plan Progress Update

HRC members are underway self-organizing into subcommittees to focus on their four work plan strategies: 1) Complete audit on current discrimination complaint process; 2) Implement a bias assessment tool within the City of Fargo; 3) Adopt a community-wide Welcoming Plan; and 4) Determine the future of HRC-related cultural programming and annual events and its role therein.

2. Core Neighborhood Plan

A plan is in the works for Fargo's Core Neighborhoods and your voice is needed! Join us during September at the virtual open house for the Core Neighborhoods Master Plan to learn what the planning process has revealed so far about critical issues and trends, key neighborhood assets, and potential strategies. Add your perspectives to a process being guided by over 80 resident volunteers that will shape the future of Fargo's original neighborhoods. For more information, visit www.FargoND.gov/CoreNeighborhoodsPlan.

3. Land Development Code Diagnostic

The public comment period for the Land Development Code (LDC) diagnostic concluded in August. Watch the presentation of key findings from [the August 4, 2020 Planning Commission meeting](#). The project will now enter the next phase of preparing a preferred alternative. The LDC influences many issues that intersect with the interests of NAC, such as the cost of housing, environmental sustainability, feasibility of public transit, and public spaces.

4. 2021 Budget

The City Commission will conduct a public hearing in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 225 4th Street North, Fargo, North Dakota on Monday, September 8 at 5 p.m. The preliminary budget is available for viewing at <https://fargond.gov/city-government/departments/finance/city-budget>.

In this budget, \$30,000 is allocated for the Indigenous Association, the same as 2020. Staff is also proposing to combine budget line items for such that costs incurred for each board are drawn from general Planning funds. Whenever the NAC has an idea or recommendation for a program or item to fund or purchase, it can be vetted through the City purchasing policy and purchased accordingly.

The budget also combines items for all the City boards staffed by the Planning commission including Native American Commission, Human Relations Commission, Arts & Culture Commission, and Fargo Youth Initiative. This way the boards can more easily be funded under general funds and be more flexible. Since the City's purchase policy is the same, the NAC would still be able to support events like Indigenous Peoples' Day, board trainings, outreach materials, technical assistance for policy initiatives, etc. through administrative dollars.

5. Racial Covenant Update

During the public comment period of the June 20, 2019 Fargo Human Relations Commission, Fargo resident Gini Duval raised the question of whether a law or ordinance existed about prohibiting African Americans from living around St. John's Church. This issue is likely the result of what is known as a *racially restrictive covenant*. A memo detailing the legal history of these now-unenforceable covenants will be distributed during the August 20 HRC meeting. This memo will be submitted to the City Commission at a future meeting as a receive and file motion.

6. Public Comment During City Commission Meetings

During the July 27 City Commission meeting, inability to make public comment at the meeting and a lack of clarity about which items were open for public input led to frustration among members of the audience. Members of the HRC also expressed concern over these events and wanted clarity from staff about public comment during the meeting. In the wake of the July 27 meeting, the City Commission has now instituted a new public comment procedure. This includes a dedicated agenda item for open public comment and designating agenda items that are open for public comment as "*Public Input Opportunity*." A news release detailing these changes is included in the August HRC packet.