

Recap and Key Takeaways

Meeting 5 April 20th, 2020

Here is a link to view the meeting... I started recording just at the start of the presentation about the Communications piece. MEETING 5: <https://vimeo.com/409976967/c32f996d63>

Note: Here are links to previous meetings in their entirety

Meeting 4: <https://vimeo.com/407430709/0b535c2228>

Healthcare Update

COVID-19: Community update

Dear community partners,

We want to keep you informed of the work we're doing at Hudson Hospital & Clinic as we prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. I know the current situation is unsettling, but I also want you to know that it is something for which our hospital and the entire HealthPartners system have been preparing for some time.

We are doing everything we can – and must – to prepare our hospital and region for the ongoing response to COVID-19. Here are a few of the specific ways we're doing that.

At Hudson Hospital & Clinic and across HealthPartners:

- Earlier this year, HealthPartners established a COVID-19 Task Force to prepare to care for patients with COVID-19 and prevent and slow the spread of the virus. In addition to this group, there are multiple local workgroups, including within our St. Croix Valley and Western Wisconsin family of HealthPartners hospitals and clinics.
- Among many other operational changes to prevent and slow transmission of the virus, we have canceled all elective surgeries and procedures, and rescheduled or moved all appropriate clinic appointments to phone or video visits.
- We have implemented visitor restrictions and patient and visitor screenings at all our hospital and clinic entrances; this includes temperature screenings. We have added all-employee health screenings.
- HealthPartners Central Lab and Regions Hospital lab are now able to conduct COVID-19 testing, reducing the amount of time it takes for us to receive results for suspected cases. Due to the limitations on testing supplies, we are currently testing:
 - Hospitalized patients showing symptoms of COVID-19;
 - Health care workers, family members and emergency personnel showing symptoms of COVID-19 through drive-up sample collection at Stillwater Medical Group Clinic (Curve Crest Blvd, Stillwater).
- We have put universal masking guidelines in place for all colleagues working in our hospitals and clinics.
- We canceled all in-person community events and classes to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect our patients, members and community. We will continue to monitor CDC recommendations before making a decision on rescheduling events and classes.
- We have implemented social distancing guidelines at all our hospitals, clinics and offices.
- As I'm sure you appreciate, this is a rapidly-evolving situation. Please visit the [HealthPartners website for the latest information and guidance](#).

Specific Hudson Hospital & Clinic updates:

- Hudson Hospital's COVID-19 work group has worked to ensure that leaders' and colleagues' questions are answered, and that the guidelines and recommendations from the CDC, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and state and federal regulations are implemented.
- We are working closely with Hudson Physicians to coordinate our response to COVID-19 in the Hudson community.
- The past few weeks have been intensely focused on what's known as "surge" planning. This refers to the detailed plans that we have in place if we need to accommodate a significant increase in the number of patients seeking care at Hudson Hospital. Our plans include:
 - Close alignment with Regions Hospital and our St. Croix Valley partner hospitals.
 - Cross-training of staff in areas that are likely to need additional support if patient volumes increase.
 - Logistics, including: Staffing, IT access, equipment, facilities and much more.
- The Hudson Hospital pharmacy has implemented pharmacy curbside pickup of prescriptions for patients to limit the number of people who need to enter the hospital.
- Our campus shuttle van service continues to serve patients, with stringent measures in place to ensure social distancing and hygiene.
- We have been overwhelmed by the generosity and support of the community, including the donation of masks and other personal protective equipment. Hudson Hospital has already received almost 1,300 donated items. We're extending our mask collection drive and are accepting drive-up donations at the hospital main entrance from 10 a.m. to noon on weekdays.
- Our team is very touched by the number of letters, cards and pictures from the community with messages of encouragement and support. Thank you to all who have been in touch to help uplift our staff in this way.

The level of support that we are witnessing in our community is incredible, and it enables our caregivers to focus intently on preparing for and responding to the evolving situation. We are so thankful to be a part of this community.

Sincerely,

Tom

Tom Borowski MBA, FACHE, CHC Thomas.J.Borowski@HealthPartners.com

LINK to VIDEO by 4th Graders:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAYMYKxIIAI&feature=youtu.be>

Communications

Presentation can be viewed in the link at the beginning of the recap. Hudson school District, Chamber, ADRC, Public Health, HAMA, City of Hudson, Mayor O'Connor are all committed to the video in terms of getting it out and participating.

Education update

- The school closure order was a difficult one to take.
- They are working on how to get teachers in safely to clean out their rooms as cleaning staff need to come in
- PPE is needed... they have 700 disposable masks, but HAMA offered that they have masks not being used right now. Nick might be asking for more in May. Mary Claire will send Nick a contact for wipes and masks.
- Childcare is happening for front line workers... about 15 kids right now
- YMCA had to cancel childcare as only 1 or 2 kids were in attendance... they need 6 to effectively run the program. This daycare is to help essential workers and their families.

Mental Health

- John Knutson reached out to Chief of Police and Fire Chief and they are looking to give officers more resources.
- Gift cards are being distributed to those on the front lines to be used at local chamber member businesses... mostly restaurants.
- AA is still holding in person meetings downtown at safe distances... they are also doing Facebook and Zoom meetings for AA overall.
- Father John met with Kesa Marson who is a therapist working mostly out of Amery. Crises calls are down... either people are feeling too busy to call or people dealing with depression and suicidal tendencies may be finding more purpose in life.
- NAMI and American Mental Health Association has resources online.
- Insurance providers are making it easier for people to access help through telemedicine. This is a convenience factor and it also alleviates people from fearing walking into a place and being recognized.
- 211 (to direct people) and Libraries (Activities online) are great resources
- Subgroup will start this week with following attendees:
 - Father John
 - Chris Kost
 - Amy Schneider
 - Brad Beckman
 - Andrea Jorgenson

Updates

- www.hudsonccr.com is ready for action with about 55 volunteers. So far, no one has asked for services. Ask all participants on this call to make people they are connected to, aware of this resource.
- Covid-19 Response Fund has had over 500k in dollars going to local nonprofits focused on 4 areas: Food, Shelter, Financial Assistance and Mental Health. The mental health funds have primarily gone to providers of Mental Health and one is being awarded to an arts organization who will be doing online classes for youth
- GiveBIG is a 24-hour giving day where community members can give to different areas in our community. Here is a link to that effort: <https://www.givebigscv.org/giving-events/scv20/home>

Economic Impact

- SBA ran out of PPP money. Again, PPP money helps the workers, but it is not a loan that helps the businesses out. Only loans out there for businesses are really for businesses who are expanding and growing and there is a need for capital. The EIDL loan was a particular disaster due to as there was a huge demand for such a small pot of money...

they changed the loan application multiple times and still have yet to see a business receive funds... many businesses withdrew their applications.

- Tax credits are available to businesses for sick and family leave for those dealing with or taking care of individuals suffering from COVID
- Tax credits for employee retention

Space Needs

- Brian Zeller updated on a gap in need by a local organization. More info to come on that particular need in next week's meeting.

Other

- Mary Claire announced someone that she knew very well (organist at her church) has died from COVID. Peace be with you Mary Claire. You bringing this up in this meeting is a clear reminder that this is very real and although we may not be touched directly by someone right now, it could very easily touch us or someone we love. This also serves as a reminder that we all need to put effort in this communications piece ASAP.
- Tricia announced to the group that Tim Jaynes was able to reach out to Yam Haus during the call and they will be making a song to go along with "Stay Smart, Stay Apart". Thank you Tim for taking this and reaching out to them!

More information and resources below

New Employer Tax Credits

All the attention has been placed on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loan program (EIDL) with the forgivable advance of up to \$10,000. The CARES Act also 2 new tax credit provisions, The Credit for Sick and Family Leave and the Employee Retention Credit.

Many businesses that have been severely impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19) will qualify for two new employer tax credits – the Credit for Sick and Family Leave and the Employee Retention Credit.

Sick and Family Leave

- **Credit for Sick and Family Leave**-An employee who is unable to work (including telework) because of coronavirus quarantine or self-quarantine or has coronavirus symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis, is entitled to paid sick leave for up to ten days (up to 80 hours) at the employee's regular rate of pay, or, if higher, the Federal minimum wage or any applicable State or local minimum wage, up to \$511 per day, but no more than \$5,110 in total.
- **Caring for someone with Coronavirus**-An employee who is unable to work due to caring for someone with coronavirus, or caring for a child because the child's school or place of

care is closed, or the paid child care provider is unavailable due to the coronavirus, is entitled to paid sick leave for up to two weeks (up to 80 hours) at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay or, if higher, the Federal minimum wage or any applicable State or local minimum wage, up to \$200 per day, but no more than \$2,000 in total.

- **Care for children due to daycare or school closure**-An employee who is unable to work because of a need to care for a child whose school or place of care is closed or whose child care provider is unavailable due to the coronavirus, is also entitled to paid family and medical leave equal to two-thirds of the employee's regular pay, up to \$200 per day and \$10,000 in total. Up to ten weeks of qualifying leave can be counted towards the family leave credit.
- **Credit for eligible employers**-Eligible employers are entitled to receive a credit in the full amount of the required sick leave and family leave, plus related health plan expenses and the employer's share of Medicare tax on the leave, for the period of April 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020. The refundable credit is applied against certain employment taxes on wages paid to all employees.

Employee Retention Credit

Eligible employers can claim the employee retention credit, a refundable tax credit equal to 50 percent of up to \$10,000 in qualified wages (including health plan expenses), paid after March 12, 2020 and before January 1, 2021. Eligible employers are those businesses with operations that have been partially or fully suspended due to governmental orders due to COVID-19, or businesses that have a significant decline in gross receipts compared to 2019.

The refundable credit is capped at \$5,000 per employee and applies against certain employment taxes on wages paid to all employees. Eligible employers can reduce federal employment tax deposits in anticipation of the credit. They can also request an advance of the employee retention credit for any amounts not covered by the reduction in deposits.

Information can be found at <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/new-employer-tax-credits>