

COVID-19 Office Hours: Transcript

November 18th, 2022

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Hello everyone and welcome to the SNAPS COVID-19 office hours. My name is Micah Webster with Abt Associates, and I'm going to spend a couple of moments going over some tech notes.

And then we'll get into the content that we have for today.

So, just a couple of housekeeping reminders, we are recording the office hours today as we do for each office hours.

And will post a copy of the recording along with the slides and any content that we received through the chat box onto the hood exchange in just a few business days.

If you have any issues with audio during the webinar, we encourage you to switch over from computer to phone audio.

The numbers that are up there on the screen and.

That I just pasted in the chat, everyone will remain you that the duration of the office hours this week, but we absolutely anticipate and hope to hear from you through the chat feature in Webex.

To find the chat, just take a look at the bottom right. Hand corner of your screen.

You should see the word chat and what looks like a message bubble.

Click on that to open the chat please send a questions comments and feedback in the chat.

And with that, I'm going to turn things over to Norm Suchar from the HUD office of special needs assistance programs.

Form Thank you very much, Micah, and welcome everyone to today's office hour session. Uh, we have some great presentations. We're very excited to present for you today. I'm gonna quickly introduce today's presenters.

Uh, but I just want to remind you and, and, uh, echo Micah's, uh, reminder about, uh, asking questions through the chat window.

Uh, you can type, uh, in the chat window, anytime you want and, uh, feel free to ask questions about the content.

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And you're listening to on the office hours, or if you have other questions, you'd like to take like, us to take a try it answering.

We're happy to do our best just go ahead and type those in the chat window as you can see from the slide. We have several people from the snaps office who are here to help answer your questions.

Uh, we will later be hearing a presentation on winter planning from Brian Poccapirore. 1 of our.

Uh, technical assistance providers, uh, we have a lot of winter great winter planning resources so Brian will be talking about the latest, um, uh, of those resources we will get our regular, uh,

update from the Centers for Disease Control and prevention from Carolyn from. Uh, so we're very excited to hear about that. Uh, we will also be hearing.

We also have a couple great presentations, uh, in recognition of transgender awareness week. Uh, so you'll be hearing.

Fran Ledger, who is a snapper and will be talking about transgender awareness week and we will also hear from Courtney Pladsen from the national healthcare for the homeless Council.

And Courtney will be talking about health equity in, for transgender people experiencing homelessness. So, we really have a great set of content for you today and we're very excited to kick off.

So, with that, I'm gonna turn things over to Caroline to.

Uh, provide us with our CDC update, Carolyn.

hi everyone my name is Caroline Wadell and my pronouns are she and her i'm an epidemic intelligence service officer on the special populations team at cdc and today i'll be giving you an update on the state of two thousand and nineteen and

or monkey pops in the united states

And it will be fairly brief. Today. There aren't too many updates.

So next slide please.

On my screen, so I'm going there. We go. Okay.

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Starting with Co, 19 here, we have the weekly trends in number of 2019 pieces over time.

And cases have decreased since the end of July and have plateau since early October.

Next slide Pre map here shows Kobe, 19 levels across jurisdictions around 76% of jurisdictions are green. We're in the low level category.

21% or yellow, or in the medium category, and just 3% of jurisdictions are red or have high community levels as of last week.

Next slide please, the proportions of SARS could be 2 variants by week are shown here.

and the point five omar chrome lineage represented by the color on the graph has decreased in proportion and is still the predominant variant by a small margin with the other two omicron variants increasing in proportion

and the lighter and darker green colors on the bar to the right side of the bigger

Next slide please now, for the update, I'll provide some quick information about the state of the outbreak and thankfully, there's not much to update since last office hours.

Um, since it's decreasing, quite suddenly next slide free.

Yeah, there have been a total of 29,055 mph cases in the United States since May of 2022.

And here, we can see the daily cases in red and the daily 7 day average line overlaid in blue.

And the average number of cases have been trending downwards since late July.

Next slide please, we have some resources on the CDC website, including a toolkit for people experiencing homelessness.

It compiles CDC resources related to that might be relevant to people experiencing homelessness or organization serving people experiencing homelessness.

Next slide please and you can contact us at the numbers, listed here for any further questions. And I'm happy to answer any questions in the chat as well.

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Thank you so much for your time and back to you, norm Thank you so much Caroline. So looking at the chart you had up about the different variants that are, uh, predominant.

Now, is there anything we should be aware of as far as as we sort of change from 1 set of variants to another, uh, are there any sort of.

Changes in the way we should be thinking about this, or are we still sort of we, we have the same sort of expectations, get vaccinated and take all the precautions we've been talking about.

Great thanks for that. Um, so far the same precautions are in place really encouraging people to consider getting a booster shot if they haven't yet.

Um, that should be pretty protective for these variants as well.

And anything special, as we think about flu season, coming up, uh, any sort of again changes in the way we should be thinking about or.

It sounds like based on past years, the same things that help protect from covid also, help protect from flu. So that's probably helpful. But anything else we should be aware of here.

yeah that's correct um some of the similar things that are working for covid are also pretty helpful for flu prevention as well and consider getting vaccinated for influenza we are seeing cases increase um so definitely keep that

On your mind, if there's a respiratory disease outbreak occurring, um, it could be flu covid and rsp is also on the rise as well.

Um, so those are 3 things to really be on the lookout in the winter months.

Great, thank you very much. If you have any questions for Carolyn please feel free to go ahead and type them in the chat window. And you will also see that.

leticia has very, hopefully posted a lot of the different resources that Carolyn just referenced for your for your reading. Pleasure. So thank you very much.

Uh, so we're going to move on to our next presentation and very, very excited to, uh, introduce fellow snapper Frank.

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Your friend is going to be talking about, as you can see on the slide transgender awareness, week and transgender day of remembrance. So, with that friend, I'm going to turn things over to, you.

So, I'm a transgender person. I'm non binary. I'm very excited to be talking to you about transgender awareness. We.

And transgender day of remembrance, next slide.

So, we're doing a whole week transgender awareness. It goes from the 13th to 19.

It's about raising awareness and educating folks about transgender people and the transgender community.

Uh, the time to share stories, so I just shared with you and addressing issues around prejudice, discrimination and violence that's affecting transgender people, and it ends with transgender day of remembrance. Right?

Because often transgender people can experience violence. And in some situations, it ends in depth of transgender people.

And so it was founded by Gwendolyn and Smith.

Activist, and it was a vigil to honor a friend Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998 and it has become.

visual that commemorates all kinds of people lost to violence during that year so usually what it looks like if you attend a transfer day of remembrance which you can look in your own community to see if there's one going on or you can even go

online often there are now vegetables online um there's usually a reading of a name where they read off all the names of the individuals who have

Died over the course of the year and those are usually.

Hosted by a plus organization next slide.

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So, we're going to watch a video for a 2nd, this is part of the awareness, right? So we're going to learn about sexual orientation, gender, identity and gender expression. Let's play the video.

In order to get on the same page about homelessness, let's 1st, talk about the differences between sexual orientation, gender, identity and gender expression. They are all different.

We think of each existing on a spectrum being on a spectrum means.

Is that there are more than just 2 ways to be?

There's a whole range of ways to be sexual orientation, describes an individual's emotional and or physical attraction to another person or people gender identity refers to a person's innate identification as a man woman.

Neither both or some other gender.

A person's gender may, or may not correspond to the sex assigned to them at birth while gender identity is someone's understanding of their own gender gender expression refers to the way that a person communicates the agenda to the world.

It includes all of the external characteristics and behaviors that are socially defined as either masculine or feminine, such as dress grooming mannerisms, speech patterns and social interactions, social or cultural norms can vary wildly and some characteristics.

That may be accepted as masculine, feminine or neutral in 1 culture. Maybe assess differently than another. It is important to note that someone's gender expression may, or may not align with traditional perceptions of gender identity.

Again, gender is a spectrum. It's important to remember that there are more than just 2 ways to be.

Thank you, let's do next slide.

So, why, why is this important for us to understand? Well, the transgender individuals are far more likely.

Uh, in our population to experience homelessness, and so we need to make sure that there are protections in place for the.

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Plus population, nearly 1 and 310, gender individuals experience homelessness at some point in their life.

And that number increases significantly for people's color up to 50% in shockingly, among our youth.

Um, the average age of, uh, of those that are homeless, their 1st time homeless is 15 years old.

And nearly 2 thirds of homeless shelter and homeless shelters.

In a recent study enrolled excuse me.

Nearly 2 thirds of homeless shelters in a recent study, fail to enroll a person properly once they identify as transgender and this will play into a couple of the slides that I show you in a few minutes.

And nearly a quarter of homeless transmitted residents, report, being assaulted.

Uh, by other residents, or staff at homeless shelters.

So all of this should raise concern for us.

And and you're also going to hear about health equity soon and this I think also is also kind of connects and.

With why these protections are so important.

Next slide so we have 2 things that we have.

That support protecting folks 1 is the equal access rules.

which applies for all had assisted programs it ensures that people are placed into housing based on their gender identity and they don't have to prove their gender identity they let you know what their their gender identity is

and we provide housing based on that

And providers must update their policy and procedures.

To reflect this requirement, and there's a link to it that was just thrown into the chat for, you.

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Let's go to the next slide. There's also something that's interesting. That happened just a few years ago with the fair housing act. The fair housing act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin.

Religion sex, family, status and disability due to a recent Supreme Court case.

Has been expanded out to include gender identity and sexual orientation. So those protections are now.

It also includes those protections, and if a person is experiencing discrimination in housing, because of sex, including their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, they can file a complaint with.

In Hudson, investigate, investigate complaints, alleging violations of the fair housing act, or the equal access rule.

Let's go to the next slide. So what does discrimination look like? It can look like all of these things. It can look like, you know, someone calling and saying they want shelter and.

And if someone reveals a Pam transgender, and they get hung up on.

Um, it can be a shelter person.

You know, someone's coming to the door and they're saying.

I'm female and then the person asking.

Reference to their genitalia, because they're they don't think okay, this person, I don't think that's their gender and so they want proof right? And so they ask something about genitalia or surgery or those kinds of things that's inappropriate. Not allowed.

Um, it could be, uh, things about discrimination if they find out if.

Somebody's in the same sex relationship and they're refused housing. That's also not permissible.

Let's go to the next slide. So what what can we do um, as providers.

We want to make sure frontline staff are educated.

And the frontline staff person.

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You can ask yourself what are the anti discrimination policies so you can educate yourself.

Um, is there an anti discrimination policy posted.

Uh, publicly in the shelter I'm working in or the, the housing program I'm working in.

Um, is there a notice of rights that I can provide to people when they come to the, to the front door to everyone.

Um, and there's a, a link to some rights for folks to see.

And we just had, uh, we just released.

This document is, how do I recognize gender identity.

In a client centered approach, it's a document that helps people when they're when frontline step are required to ask.

For gender in their data collection, how to do that in a way that's trauma form center in a humble way.

Um, and then for managers and directors again.

Do I have an anti discrimination policy?

Am I regularly training staff and making sure volunteers understand what the policies are?

And for boards, do we have policy in place?

Do we support projects that actually train their staff and make sure that they are educated on these things?

Um, and how we've been clear with projects about our expectation around things.

Let's go to the next slide. So what can we do? We can become an ally and educate ourselves, but just give you a little peek into a couple things that it can be. So supportive.

There are other things you can do, you can you can go out in the world, do some research for yourself learn about.

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Transgender community participated in transit or day of remembrance, then That'll be on the 20th.

You can take a look at the equal access self assessment tool if your program and C.

Are you doing all the things that you need to do to make sure that you're in compliance with the equal access rules?

And you can also reach out to state and local and with advocacy organizations and there's a link there.

That's the last slide and who can ask for help so anyone can ask for help. So we have a we have a resource page on the head exchange that you can go to. That has.

A slew of different links to some helpful resources and have also posted some of those resources on this page and put them all together. These come from, across the slides that you looked at. Um, there are some really great.

Staff training videos that help staff kind of.

We'll play out scenarios that may help happen in shelters and how to address things that may come up that are uncomfortable.

Get them used to thinking about it and how they would resolve issues.

Those training videos that are training scenarios are really great.

And there's also a guidebook for developing inclusive anti discrimination policies. So that one's also really great. And I recommend taking a look at that.

Uh, normally turn back over to you, thank you so much, Fran and all of that is great.

The video was wonderful, and I wondered if you could talk a little more about the training scenarios, because I have to say, when i1st read those, they, they are just incredibly effective and just do such a nice job of helping people sort of, uh,

you know, walk through a lot of common scenarios that might happen. So I wonder if you could talk about sort of what kinds of. of

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Those those, those, um.

Resources, uh, help help people with.

Yeah, they're yeah, I think they're wonderful. There are 6 or 7 of them and what they do is they take place in different types of programs so there might be 1 that's like.

Let's say it's a, a large congregate shelter.

And it may will play out a scenario where maybe a participant comes to staff with a complaint about somebody who's transgender. And then it will plays out with that situation. Looks like.

And then, after the role playing scenario, it has a series of questions to talk through. How might that situation be done differently? What kinds of things were you aware of, as that role play happened.

So the staff can kind of get used to that, uh, that situation that can be uncomfortable and think through how, as an organization are you going to address those things when it comes up? What are the things you're going to do to put.

Put stuff in place, so when those situations do come up.

You're ready for them and there's a, there's a wide range of of.

Great, thank you. And I honestly can't recommend them enough. Uh, in addition to all the other resources that you talked about.

i wonder if you could talk about also if if i'm a say a statewide coalition and i'm having you know our annual conference and i want to uh provide content about this for uh for the

conference attendees or or whatever uh what are some options uh can i ask for like someone to help with training or or what options do i have there

Yeah, I definitely submit and we'll drop the, um, make a request in the, and we have technical assistants that can support communities of being able to.

But to present to your community, so, you know, around.

Equal access rules, fair housing, act around, you know.

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Around awareness.

Um, and, yeah, I think.

Any community that's interested in those things and helping make sure that their providers are getting an alignment with those requirements.

Um, absolutely make that request. We're excited to be working with folks.

Great, thank you so much friend. If you have any questions or comments about this.

Please feel free to type them in the chat window and we'll do our best to respond to as many as we can. But thank you very much. So, we're going to move on to our next topic, as you can see on the slide here.

Courtney plants in from the national healthcare for the homeless council is going to discuss, uh, health equity for transgender people, uh, experiencing homelessness and gender forming care. So, Courtney, I'm going to turn things over to, you.

Thanks good afternoon. Everyone my pleasure to be with you. All today. I am the clinical director as a council, and I'm also really excited to talk about this topic because I provide gender affirming care of my local health care for the homeless clinic.

And I'm really passionate about this topic next slide. Please.

Happy transgender awareness week. It's a wonderful week to celebrate gender diversity.

In addition to celebrating it is also we're going to be touching, especially in thinking about health equity, we're going to be touching upon some difficult topics around violence around, for health outcomes, increase rate of homelessness.

So, I just want to name that at the outset also with gender diversity is something that.

It's not in your comfort zone, if you don't know much about it. I encourage you to approach this topic with curiosity. We all have our own lived experience and we have so much to learn from our blind spots. So just encourage you to come with an open mind and open heart in this conversation today. Next slide.

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So 1 of the things that I was thinking about building off the strengths of our community of those who sort of people experiencing homelessness.

We serve an incredibly diverse population. Not not 1 shelter. Looks like another. We serve people varying races.

Ages nationalities, people of different sexual orientation, gender, diversity, religion, education attainment. We see people from all walks of life.

And if in particular gender diversity is not something that you have a lot of experience with, you have so many other foundational.

knowledge to grow off of and i wanted to start from that place of if we can have that posture of compassion towards a person in front of us towards a person that we're serving whether it's an a shelter whether that's through outreach whether that's in a healthcare for the homeless

clinic

We can build from that place that's how we build connection with others that are different than ourselves. So we just want to start from a place of strength that our community.

We are not some high end boutiques, as serves 1, particular clientele, our services, and our programs serve. So many different types of people. So, we already have these strengths that we can build off of.

Additionally, when thinking around intersectionality.

People who are gender diverse those who are transgender are not fully.

Their gender identity, they come to our spaces with lots of different intersections of race and age and all these other identities here in front of us.

So, yes, someone may be trans but they also that might not be.

The front of their mind in that moment. So I just want to make sure we're thinking of people as whole human.

Next slide, so want us to just 1st center what is center? Affirmation? What does that mean?

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It means it's an umbrella term for the range of actions and possibilities involved in living surviving and thriving as are authentic gendered cells. So, how do we in the homeless service sector?

Um, provide gender, affirming services. This can look really different as a primary care provider. I'm going to be focusing on medical affirmation and providing services that meets the client's clinical goal.

But if you're a case manager, if you're a social worker, that might look different. That might be helping someone obtain an ID. That where they are a gender. Marker can identify, can match their gender identity. That can work on.

That is such a huge step for people. If they have an ID that matches their gender identity, that means they can change their, their gender marker on their health insurance. That means when they seek medical care, their electronic health records can have the correct gender that way.

They're not continually miss.

They're doing their accessing health services, but just a small step, like, changing an ID can have massive implications for decreasing the rate of being this gender. So, it's so essential that 1 step.

And even if we're just meeting someone for the 1st, time, just creating space for gender diversity is incredibly affirming. So, even by just not making assumptions by being inclusive. We can start by saying.

My name is Courtney and I used to be her pronoun. What's her name? What are your name and pronoun?

By just creating that space allows people to provide an alternative to define who they are for you, rather than us making assumptions.

So, even if we're not a case manager, even if we're not helping to support services, even if we're just meeting that person for the 1st time, just providing space for pronouns and a preferred name.

can be and be incredibly affirming in a new space and there's a lot of ways that we can do this in programs signaling through paperwork has incredibly important if someone comes in is filling out forms and there's

only binary options of male and female that inherently is saying to the person you don't fit in here so how do we create gender affirmation through every step of our process how do we signal that from the way that we

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signify

Gender in our pictures, the way that we write it in our forms, the way that we set up shelter. So we just want to make sure that we're thinking of gender affirmation for the time.

So, an entrance into a shelter to the time that they're accessing a bed, a bathroom documentation and interacting with our staff.

We're going to talk more about and build our full fledged friend, shared that many people, or gender diverse, have had very negative and traumatic experiences in shelter. So there's lots of ways in which we can grow and improve in this area of being more affirming.

Next slide please. So.

To begin building off what Frank shared, just just really wanted to demonstrate how gender diversity increases rates of homelessness, and we see this through systematic oppression of housing,

discrimination of job discrimination for people who are gender diverse. So, this is.

These numbers are unfortunately incredibly high of those experiencing homelessness who are trans and non binary.

Next slide so, when thinking about health equity, the understanding, the difference of even though folks who are trends, have higher rates of homelessness in general, they have much higher rates of unsheltered, homelessness,

and that has significant health.

Impacts we know that unsheltered people experience who are experiencing homelessness, have the worst health outcomes of the homeless population more likely to have, um.

Worsening mental health symptoms, we're seeing substance use worsening exacerbation of chronic conditions, decreased access to healthcare and other social services. So the fact that.

Folks who are trying to diverse experience. 82% are experiencing unsheltered, homelessness and 56% of trans. Adults are experiencing on children. Homelessness. These numbers are astronomical and have significant health impacts.

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And really leads to contributes to high rates of mortality in this population.

Next slide please. So.

I just wanted to highlight this that statistic in particular around trans folks who've tried to access of those who tried to excess shelter.

70% have experienced harassment by shelter staff for residents.

And more than half 52% who stated a shelter in the past year, were verbally harassed, physically attacked or and or sexually assaulted because.

Fully identifying trends. 1 of the things that I want to highlight here is yes training is important. It is essential for our staff.

I also encourage you all to hire trans folks that is so important to have gender diversity diversity represented in our staff. Um.

The other thing I want to say here is that when we are trying to support clients who are harassing, or saying, hey, speech to those who are trans, we have to call that out. We cannot accept.

Hate speech in our shelters, and we do this already for those, that, for individuals who say things that are racist or massage monistic or bigoted, we are able to call that out.

But when it comes to gender diversity, this is an area that folks don't feel as confident, and we have to gain that skill. So I really appreciate norm and Fran lifting up. Those trainings are really working on the role playing. How do we.

See, how these conversations to help create spaces where we're educating and trying to teach the clients in the spaces we'll also try and create safe space that our agenda affirming for those sort of gender, diverse.

We have to do better. Our shelters are not serving transgender, diverse patients. Well.

Next slide so when we think again of this health equity piece, we want to think about the compounding impacts. So.

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It's not just 1 challenge again. This is the component. Intersectionality trans individuals are exceptionally, socially isolated. There's a lot of social rejections. They're much higher.

They have much higher rate of domestic violence, intimate partner, violence and exploitation.

Housing and stability again, because of discrimination.

And as friends shared those really hard statistics around youth, family rejection is a huge driving force of homelessness and especially on young folks.

Physical health issues, because we, in the healthcare system also do not do a great job of writing dinner, affirming care again. We can start with just this at the front desk when we start to intake someone.

So, there's a lot of mistrust in our healthcare system, and people just don't get treated well, so we have a lot to learn in this area and that's why we had the healthcare for the homeless Council. We're working hard to really help our health centers grow in this area as well.

We want gender diversity able to walk into any healthcare for the homeless clinic.

High quality care and feel affirmed to their tender.

And then a higher burden and mental health issues again, contributed to rationally discrimination, violence and unsheltered homelessness. A lot of compounding factors there.

And then socio, economic and equality, trans folks, um, disproportionate experienced poverty.

Next slide so digging more into interpersonal violence.

We know that intense turnarounds effects 1 and 4 women just still shockingly high 109 and I should say 1 enforce this women and 1 and 9, this men. nine this men

But, for people who are trans and non binary rates, increase the 1 and 3.

This is exceptionally high, and I just want to make sure, you know, these numbers are.

Even higher for folks experiencing homelessness and even hire for those who are unsheltered.

These folks to become highly marginalized and highly vulnerable to violence.

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Next slide so, in addition to physical violence, emotional violence, there's high rates of sexual violence.

And the disparity is just really significant 1, comparing cisgender women to trans women in particular.

Next slide so before, I think about talk about the coding team pandemic, I want to.

Actually can go back 1 side when we think why I bring this violence up in particular.

I don't want to just sit in what is hard right now around this, but it's important to highlight because this just highlights the need for connection to gender affirming care.

How do we support someone that is struggling with their mental health and in just surviving from violence? Um.

They need support with connecting to services, connecting to mental health, behavioral health, clinical care, to make sure they're getting their needs met and really trying to support their gender affirmation while working to try to exit homelessness at the same time.

And so just knowing these rates of violence is exceptionally important for us as service providers to be able to meet this need to decrease the cycle of violence, increase their decrease gender dysphoria, increase, gender, affirmation.

Next slide, so 1 of the things that we saw in the code in 19 pandemic, so we do not want to replicate that feels really important to highlight.

We saw, we've all seen that the pandemic exacerbating existing equities. We saw that across the population that was experiencing homelessness.

But what we saw in particular just for trans folks is an increased disconnection from health and social services.

So, because of this increased rate of unsheltered, homelessness, these individuals.

Put an access clinical care they often didn't have cell phones or technology to access virtual or telehealth in that disruption and care.

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It disrupted their ability to receive their medical care, their clinical care. So often that means taking hormones.

And for someone who is trans, gender, affirming medical care, like, hormone treatment is life saving and decreases gender dysphoria.

And that disruption can be so negative for someone's mental health increase suicidality, increase despair and hopelessness. And so just that disruption in clinical care, during the pandemic, cause significant harm in this community.

So we have to think when we're imagining or reimagining what disaster response looks like.

In our healthcare system, we have to build systems that are prepared to address these equities. We have to then say, okay, if our health center's closing, we have to go to virtual care.

How do we make sure that the most marginalized those that are unsheltered that we're bringing clinical care either to them through the street medicine medical outreach. We're bringing outreach team at telephone.

So, they can connect to their clinical provider, but we need to make sure that, as we move forward in healthcare systems and homeless service systems, that we're not leaving the most marginalized.

Behind.

So, why is this so important? And why are we highlighting this? Gender? Firming care is life saving.

If you were someone that has had to operate in a binary world, if you've been rejected by your family, there is a lot of hurt and pain here by receiving gender affirmation by having a space where you feel like, you can be fully yourself.

That can say, literally save someone's life. It's also a human rights as we just reviewed accessing dinner forming shelter is a right within hood. So we want to make sure we are actually creating spaces that are tender affirming, not just the name, but in practice as well.

Next slide as I mentioned, we're putting a lot of time and resources and got into this as a council and I just wanted to share some opportunities for folks. If you want to get involved in this work.

We have a gender from and care work group that meets Quarterly for the next.

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7 months, and we're really working on a literature review about gender affirming care amongst people experiencing homelessness. So this exact intersection.

So, if this is something that you're passionate about, that you want to learn more about, you want to participate and learn from others across the country, come join us. You can always reach out to me email me and I can drop my email in the tab.

We're going to be focusing on gender, affirming medical restrooms. How do we create medical restaurants spaces that are affirming.

And then, at our conference next year, in May we're going to be doing another Pre conference Institute, or 1 day training on gender affirming care 101.

so, we have lots of really exciting things that we're working on now that are coming down the pike and lots of ways for you to engage to learn with us and to walk alongside associate all try to grow and learn and do better as we know. Better. we know better

Next slide normal, turn it back over to, you.

Thank you so much Courtney. That was really incredible and really informative.

So, if I'm an organization, and I'm working at the local level, and I want to find like, who should I look to to partner with to really sort of dive deeper into the health equity conversations.

And that can bring some expertise to help.

so there's kind of a number of ways and i can i can drop some links in the chat as well so there are many local organizations who are providing training who are made up of trans and gender diverse individuals so it's

always best to learn from people who lived experience so have those folks come to your program to talk and train your staff so i highly recommend that as well and they'll be able to give you specific resources to your local community find a healthcare partner

who is

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Your community provides gender affirming care that way they can access life, saving hormone treatment, and also behavioral health, mental health substances treatment that is also gender affirming.

So, those are my 2 recommendations training and connection to healthcare and a local healthcare partner.

Hopefully healthcare for the homeless in your community. Great.

Thank you so much, and also just encourage everyone is, you're thinking about the governance and your continuum of care and the leadership roles in your continuum of care to really make sure that the transgender people are represented in those and providing, like,

really meaningful decision making and shared leadership there, so thank you so much Courtney. Great, great content. We very much appreciate it.

And good luck with all the resources you guys are developing, we will definitely be eager to, uh, to promote those as they come out.

So, we're going to turn to our next, uh, next topic, uh, about winter planning. So I'm gonna turn things over to Brian rock. Priori.

Uh, Brian is gonna talk about some of our, as you can see on the screen are infectious disease, winter, planning and preparedness resources. So, uh, Brian over to you.

Hi, everybody, Brian and rock priori.

Keep him his pronouns and while it is great to be back here on office hours, I don't love following 2 really powerful presentations on gender affirming care and trans awareness week.

But in the spirit of trans awareness week, my youngest son is trans, and the last 2 presentations really hit close to home for me. So, I just wanted to thank Fran and Courtney for using their platforms to deliver those messages. It is beyond important.

Um, so hard pivot, uh, that's not what I'm.

Here to talk today, I am going to take just a few moments of everyone's time to talk about infection control and winter planning. Um.

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I live up in New England.

We saw our 1st snowflakes, not that long ago, and we flew and Kobe and rsv, and, uh, still around, wanted to take just a few minutes to highlight some of the resources that are available to help communities,

navigate this winter. Uh, we can go to the next slide please.

There have been a ton of products released in the past few years that relate to winter planning and infectious disease control and the link that's going in the chat right now is a great short video and 1 page guide that centralizes all of

those into 1 place. We created this, uh, in partnership with HUD and the Centers for Disease Control, and Courtney from national healthcare for the homeless council to really serve as a quick guide to get community as the most recent guidance for the winter planning.

The resources infection, control measures, the vaccination outreach and, uh, prevention and mitigation.

We know that the guidance around the user continue really shifting, and we really hope that this is.

A simple way to get communities quickly able to access the most up to date information.

And while written products are great, there is nothing that we could possibly put in a product that is going to replicate the power of effective partnerships with the local level. So, on the next side, we highlight some of those.

Every year the challenges that we, as a sector are facing, are getting increasingly more and more complex. And this winter is no different. I said before the rsv, 19 flew combo that's a lot to deal with.

And the homeless service sector shouldn't have to solve for all of those problems on the road. So, partnerships are important.

And 1 of the most important ones a system can have in the winters with their local public health department the Lincoln.

chat is specific and it helps communities with how to establish those initial conversations with your local public health partners on things like prevention measures pathways to vaccination care and treatment it can really be

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used for any infectious disease outbreak the the general outline is there for you it's a good blueprint and i'm sure most of you have your winter plans in effect or at least have most of the plan together so

While the ideal time to get all of these partners involved in planning would have been, when you started that plan. The 2nd best time is right now.

So, having all of those folks involved allows communities to leverage all those other sectors, experience and expertise to the fullest effect. And, like I said before really not go this alone.

There are more obvious partners, like your health care and emergency management. But I did want to take a 2nd, just to stress the involvement of the people that your system is serving and making sure that the planning tables are representative of the populations.

You serve the folks being served in your system are going to be your greatest asset in making sure that everyone safe this winter and they know the system better than absolutely anyone. So, make sure that the folks who lived experience are involved in your planning process.

And then, on my last, and next slide is a reminder of the body of work that exists that can help inform your winter planning. These are always available on the exchange. Um.

I've been told the head exchange could be sometimes difficult to navigate so we wanted to make sure that we put these front and foremost for everybody all those links are going in the chat right now. So, you don't have to wait for this, uh, presentation to get uploaded. Um.

The 1st is, uh, a link to the winter planning resources and that's a full guy to help communities create or enhance their own plans. The next, uh, for the vaccine planning and distribution.

It's a suite of flyers and videos and best practices and products for vaccine planning. And while it's mostly covid specific, it can really help inform any vaccine effort.

And it includes some really great messaging tools and tips to increase vaccine confidence in your communities.

The 3rd is the disease and disease risks in homelessness page, that contains a ton of information about covid at and what Caroline from the CDC was talking about,

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earlier with any new code variants that prevention and mitigation practices do remain the same, then you could find those best practices and community examples and tools to help you with your process this winter.

And then the infectious disease tool kit for excuse me for CDC, it provides a structure and specific examples for planning and responding to infectious diseases has 3 documents.

That helps provide information for leadership service providers and partners when planning and or responding to infectious diseases.

Um, and just last if there's something you're struggling with, or have questions on the ask a question to ask has a very specific infectious disease question pool, which will direct all.

Those questions directly to a disaster response, technical assistance provider, who can help provide guidance and support with you along the way. So, I just really want to encourage everybody to take advantage of the AQ desk.

And that wraps things up for me thank you. All. And norm I will hand it back to you.

thank you so much brian and looking at the chat window i realize we have just a ton of great links and resources in there we're coming to the close for our webinar but i wanted to let you know you can actually copy and paste all that information

uh mike has just pasted the instructions in the um in the chat window here so if you click file save chat uh it will let you save the entire chat window or clicking in the chat window and hitting control

Which will select everything and then control C, uh, or if you're using a Mac, the Apple, a, and the, um, we'll let you, uh, copy that all those links. And so you'll have them you can just paste them into a word document. You'll have them all available.

Uh, so I want to give really, uh, heartfelt thanks to all our presenters today. Uh, we just had a ton of really great content.

Uh, and, uh, thank you so much, uh, friend, Courtney, uh, Carolyn, Brian, great resources. Uh, and we very much appreciate you presenting those today.

And if you have any questions, uh, we will, uh, our next, um, office hours will be Friday, December 16th.

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Uh, so we moved it up a week because of the holidays. Uh, so, Friday, December, 16th, uh, and again feel free to bring your questions to those office hours. And we are happy to answer as many of those as we can. Um.

With that we're going to I just want to wish everyone a great rest of the day. Great weekend. And that concludes our webinar.