Notes from May 29 Health Care, Nonprofits, Childcare and Support Services Subcommittee Meeting

**Participants:**
Bill Burke, Board of Maine Health  
Tae Chong, Catholic Charities  
Barbara Crowley, MaineGeneral  
Jennifer Hutchins, Maine Association of Nonprofits  
Wick Johnson, Kennebec Technologies  
Becky Wyke, University of Maine at Augusta  
Ana Hicks, GOPIF staff  
Molly Bogart, DHHS staff

**Overall direction of the group:**
We have broken the work into smaller groups, but we will need to stay in connection and look at places for overlap.

**Health Care presentation:**

- Barbara and Bill will be doing a significant amount of outreach to understand the challenges of different parts of the health care sector. While hospitals have been provided resources from the federal government, we are concerned about rural hospitals.

- Barbara focused on the need to support people to get the health care services that they need aside from COVID-19. Settings are safe and we need people to feel comfortable

- Jennifer Hutchins and Barbara will have a conversation about overlap. Many of the sources listed by Barbara for outreach are part of the nonprofit advocacy network, including behavioral and mental health. Mental health providers are receiving major stressors and not receiving the same type of support that hospitals and doctors are receiving.

- Tae Chong talked about the challenges for people in need of mental health services. We could also educate people about health care options at the food banks and other locations where people go.

- The need for mental health services have increased. Telehealth is helping, but not everyone aware of services or know how to access them or can access them.

**Nonprofits:**

- The nonprofit sector is a large sector. About half of nonprofits provide health and human services but another part of the sector has a different focus. For this group, we will focus on the HHS sector and we are a state that uses our nonprofits to provide these services at a higher rate.

- See attached slides.
• Tae will be working on understanding the data related to people in need. What are the basic needs that aren’t being met? What types of calls is 211 getting? What are people calling about? food insecurity? mental health, child care needs, access to housing, healthcare etc...

• How many eviction cases are qued up once the moratorium goes away.

Child Care:

• The already fragile child care system has now been greatly strained by the pandemic and programs are struggling to stay afloat. Many child care programs who were already operating on tight margins and already faced challenges recruiting and maintaining staff may not be able to survive this challenging time.

• Data from the Office of Child and Family Services shows that about half of the state’s programs were closed at the beginning of April, while the other half stayed open, often with significantly fewer children in their programs, to care for the children of essential workers.

• Many programs are re-opening to align with the state’s phased in re-opening plan in order to meet the needs of working parents. However, as they plan for re-opening, a good number of programs find themselves operating at significant deficits. Because parents are concerned about the health risks of putting their children in group settings, many are operating with fewer children and without the ability to lower all of their operating and overhead costs. All programs will face increased costs for cleaning and protecting the health and well-being of children.

The group decided to cancel its subcommittee meeting on June 5th because of conflicts for two members. The group will continue to connect with stakeholders and do its work to understand the needs of nonprofits, health care and child care as well as people in need. They will meet again on Friday, June 12 from 9 am to 10 am.