



AspireMN

An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families

www.aspiremn.org

~ Pass this to colleagues and staff who would enjoy the updates, and encourage them to sign up to receive future updates by emailing rpeterson@aspiremn.org. ~

AUGUST 10, 2018

FIRST FRIDAY (on the 2nd Friday) – updates and ideas to share

MN LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

GOTV! – Tuesday August 14 is the Primary Election! Please encourage participation in this critical part of the democratic process and Get Out To Vote. Resources and information on accessing the polls is available at the [Office of the MN Secretary of State](#).

Inviting the Creatives – AspireMN and MACMHP are collaborating to design an advocacy initiative to assure sustainable mental health services are available for Minnesota children, youth, families and individuals. The initiative seeks to build awareness and momentum to pass a rate increase and rate methodology for mental health services into the future – during the 2019 legislative session. The goal for the initiative is to deliver clear and compelling messages to key audiences about the value of mental health services to Minnesotans, and the critical need for a funding increase to assure access to services. As you know, it's complicated. If you have **creatives** on your team - marketing, communications or related experts - who would be interested in contributing their talents to building the concepts and key messages for this initiative, please contact Kirsten. Much more will be forthcoming on this topic, please stay tuned!

FEDERAL UPDATES

Congressional Recess is a great time to share your story. The House of Representatives home on recess through September 4 and the Senate will be in session as of August 15. As your MN Members of Congress and our US Senators are hobnobbing throughout their districts this month, please take the opportunity to share a brief snapshot with them about the important work you do. Your stories inspire your leaders – they love to hear about your work, straight from you, you are encouraged to seize those moments as you are able!

EVENTS

Village Ranch Hosts Appelstein Training – Village Ranch invites AspireMN Members to send Youth Workers to a training conducted by [Charlie Appelstein](#) on August 21, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Dassel-Cokato [Performing Arts Center](#). Lunch will be served from 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. in the lobby of the PAC. Village Ranch will need a headcount for those eating lunch by Friday, August 17. Please email Kerry Nelson at Kerry Nelson at kerry.nelson@villageranchinc.org to include your Youth Workers in this exceptional training opportunity. Thank you Village Ranch!

Mental Health Day at the State Fair is August 27. Dan Patch Park at the State Fair will host over 40 organizations, entertainment, and activities – all promoting mental health awareness, from 8-6 pm on August 27. Learn more about Mental Health Awareness Day [here](#).

DON'T MISS THIS!

Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media have launched *Call to Mind*, an initiative to generate awareness and action for mental health. The initiative is currently inviting people to submit ideas for investigative reporting that they hope to pursue with a new mental health journalist. Pitch your best ideas for news stories on mental health at www.calltomindnow.org or go directly to their idea-capture tool [here](#).

Save the Dates – 2018 Member Meetings and Conferences

- QPI-MN Founders Planning Retreat – September 12, Madden's Resort
- AspireMN Member Meeting & Leadership Retreat – September 13-14, Madden's Resort in Brainerd
- Youth Worker Conference October 8-9, Cragun's Resort in Brainerd
- Annual Membership Meeting – November 8-9, Radisson in St Paul

ASPIRATIONAL REFLECTIONS

Leading in a Time of Change, by facilitator and teacher Tracy Chaplin of [Co-Nexio](#). Tracy shares reflections from a change-making workshop she facilitated around the topic of Resilience for Energy Systems, hosted at Dartmouth College – the full story of their reporting of the experience is outlined [here](#).

Tracy Chaplin is facilitating the AspireMN Leadership Retreat, Sept 13-14 at Madden's (register now at AspireMN.org). She will help AspireMN members call upon the storied expertise, skill, passion and vision and draw on those insights to identify how and where we can collectively lead in this time of change. Tracy used similar approaches to dig into the complex context facing the energy and environment field. Below you see reflections from Tracy's days leading at Dartmouth – giving food for thought for the upcoming AspireMN Leadership Retreat.

CONTEXT AND INTENTIONS

How do we create a resilient energy system in a world of rapidly shifting risks, political turmoil, and complex laws and institutions?

Energy infrastructure devastation through storms, floods, winds, fires, and other forces affect millions of people each year and requires creative new approaches to protect public health, the environment, and well-being. From multi-day power outages in New England to the destruction of the entire electric system in Puerto Rico, to sustained energy shortages in many countries, there is a renewed awareness of system vulnerabilities and needs in the face of rapidly changing climate and extreme weather events.

For two days, we engaged academics, practitioners, policy makers, and students to explore and better understand the changing dimensions of risk facing energy systems, management during

a crisis, and, **most importantly**, opportunities for action. It was our intention to help shape initial funding opportunities, programming, and research for the newly created Arthur L. Irving Institute for Energy and Society.

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

It's our pleasure to share the outcomes of this gathering, which met our intentions and goals, including:

Identify research areas and results that will be used to shape funding opportunities, programming, and research

Build community and new relationships

Engage in deep, critical conversation

Use outcomes to identify near-term research, education & engagement focuses

“Resiliency is a major concern which impacts every segment of society and the economy. The Government of Canada is excited to have the opportunity to work with the Irving Institute to explore how public institutions and private organizations from around the globe can partner more effectively to provide solutions to the dilemmas which make us less resilient.”

~ Marc A. Jacques, Senior Political & Economic Affairs Attaché, Consulate General of Canada

FIELD-RELATED UPDATES

Critical UI Funding Options Exclusive to 501(c)(3) Employers, content provided by UST

With human resource costs and pending legal changes being one of the fastest growing concerns for employers—we wanted to see if UST could offer you some much needed relief.

As a 501(c)(3), when your organization has an unemployment claim, you are allowed by federal law to pay only for the unemployment benefits claimed by the employee, instead of state taxes. This allows you to continue to provide unemployment benefits, without sharing in the excess costs of state unemployment taxes that subsidize for-profit employers.

But how do you know whether you should opt out of the UI tax system?

Endorsed by Aspire MN since 2004, UST helps nonprofits benchmark their unemployment costs to determine if they should exercise their tax exemption status. Whether you're better suited as a tax-rated or reimbursing employer, UST can offer you a variety of funding options, an expert claims advisor as well as a live HR Hotline so you maintain compliance in all HR matters ... without the costly legal consultation.

From e-filing unemployment claim reports to representing you at claim hearings—UST's goal is to *simplify* your job.

Just last year, 2,200+ UST participants saved over \$26.2 million in unemployment claims costs. If you have 10+ employees, fill out the free [Unemployment Cost Analysis](#) to uncover your saving's potential. **Expedite your request today with this Priority Code: 2018AMN-E.**

Regional suicide prevention coordination for Crisis Text Line is now getting underway, content provided by the DHS Mental Health Update

DHS has selected three contractors who will:

- Support awareness of suicide prevention and how to access the statewide text message suicide response service
- Maintain local resources in the 211 national database for Crisis Text Line to access in order to help connect individuals with trained crisis counselors and access local resources
- Increase knowledge and awareness of the warning signs for suicide and of how to connect individuals in crisis with assistance and care
- Partner with local mental health facilities, medical providers, school counselors, juvenile justice, probation officers, and county providers to provide trainings, information and materials
- Promote timely access to high-quality culturally-appropriate services for persons at heightened risk for suicide
- Provide postvention training to communities.

The three regional coordinators are:

Carlton County: 30 Northern Counties including: Aitkin, Itasca, Koochiching, Becker, Beltrami, Carlton, Lake, St. Louis, Cook, Cass, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Todd, Wadena, Lake of the Woods, Hubbard, Clearwater, Pine, Polk, Norman, Mahnommen, Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake. Contact: Meghann Levitt Meghann.levitt@co.carlton.mn.us

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribal Nation: 7 Tribal Nations including: Red Lake, White Earth, Leech Lake, Boise Forte, Grand Portage, Fond du Lac, Mille Lacs. Contact: Joni Cabrera joncabrera@fdlrez.com

Canvas Health: 57 Counties Including: Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Freeborn, Martin, Jackson, Faribault, Nobles, Rock, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood, Blue Earth, Waseca, Steele, Dodge, Watonwan, Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Brown, Olmsted, Winona, Nicollet, Le Sueur, Rice, Goodhue, Wabasha, Sibley, Yellow Medicine, Lac Qui Parle, Renville, Chippewa, McLeod, Meeker, Kandiyohi, Big Stone, Swift, Hennepin, Carver, Dakota, Scott, Washington, Ramsey, Anoka, Clay, Ottertail, Wilkin, Wright, Stearns, Benton, Sherburne, Grant, Douglas, Traverse, Stevens, Pope, 4 Tribal Nations including: Lower Sioux, Upper Sioux, Prairie Island, Shakopee Mdewakanton. Contact: Rosemary White shield rwhiteshield@hsicrisis.org

More information and how you can support suicide prevention services in Minnesota can be found at the DHS [crisis website](#).

First Fridays will be shared monthly with members. Contributions are welcome. Please send your ideas for content to rpeterson@aspiremn.org.