From: noreply@buncombecounty.org
To: letstalk
Subject: Web Contact: Let"s Talk Comment
Date: Friday, April 3, 2020 8:58:25 AM

There are new comments from a https://www.buncombecounty.org/letstalk user.

Let's Talk

This email was received from a user of the Buncombe County Website.

Name:
Phone:
Email:
Subject:
COVID SHELTER
Questions / Comments:

Please re-consider the way we are handling the operations of the hotel shelter. My concern is that we are putting front line workers at risk , who if contracting COVID are then bringing this highly transmissible disease to the most vulnerable populations- elderly in assisted livings and disabled and elderly in the community and also families with children.

The people who are asked to work the shelter are persons who have done everything to protect our most vulnerable. Please do everything to protect those workers. These persons are not trained medical personnel, PPE and the use of this by a youtube video or webinar does not equal the training and years of experience that medical personnel have. And really does PPE alone guarantee that staff will not be infected? And can we make staff 100 percent responsible for not contracting the illness via use of PPE? Having these persons on site in a hotel that houses COVID positive persons or COVID exposed persons whether it is cleaned between shifts or not puts our staff at risk. And the use of NARCAN? Are our staff supposed to administer this without training? My understanding is that NARCAN is administered via the nasal cannula. I would think that would increase the risk of transmission of COVID even more.

STAY HOME STAY SAFE order does not of course apply to essential workers. But please consider the ramifications of putting a large portion of our counties resources out of commission when there might be other, safer options. Once there is exposure would there not also be a mandated isolation/ quarantine for the exposed staff?

What is going to happen 1-2 months down the line when there are no available front line workers and there are multiple outbreaks of COVID in our community and in our assisted living facilities? Who will respond to potential increased needs at this time including facility support in dealing with deadly outbreaks and assisting persons who have incurred job loss, increased domestic violence, eviction notices etc?

Also the cost to the county in terms of potential unemployment claims, paying for workers in quarantine, lost work hours, hospital bills and medical care costs etc, could

be staggering. I thought with the HRA we were working diligently to assure a healthy workforce and coinciding lowered health care costs.

Please consider utilizing this most valuable resource in a remote site and if there needs to be someone posted on site, perhaps a trained volunteer that will not have any additional need to be out in the field.

These valuable workers and their skills can certainly be helpful from a remote site. If physicians can provide telehealth in this perilous time, surely our social workers can provide tele-social work.

Thank you for listening. So grateful for the way that the county has handled much of this situation, but very concerned about this one aspect of operations.