



# Cass County Interagency Group

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

The Cass County Interagency Group is made up of Cass County agencies, businesses, and individuals who have made it their goal to improve the lives of Cass County residents by increasing access to valuable resources and creating new opportunities for the public through collaboration.

### Upcoming Events

#### Marketplace Open Enrollment Period

- November 1: Open Enrollment starts for health coverage for the next plan year — first day you can enroll in, re-enroll in, or change health plans through the Health Insurance Marketplace®. Coverage can start as soon as January 1.
- December 15: Last day to enroll in or change plans for coverage to start January 1.
- January 1: Coverage starts for those who enroll in or change plans by December 15 and pay their first premium.
- January 15: Open Enrollment ends — last day to enroll in or change health plans for the year. After this date, you can enroll in or change plans only if you qualify for a Special Enrollment Period
- February 1: Coverage starts for those who enroll in or change plans December 16 through January 15 and pay their first premium.

#### Cass County CPR Course

CPR courses are finished for the year, but will resume again in January! Please call Louise Yale at (217) 452-3057 x1321 for more information.

#### Cass County Community Closet

**Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Cass County Community Closet in Virginia is open every 3rd Saturday monthly, or by appointment. Call (217) 452-3057 for more info about making an appointment.

#### Cass County Welcome Center English Group

Join us every Wednesday from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm at the Beardstown Public Library to help build English language skills! See attached flyers and feel free to share!

#### AgeLinc Annual Fundraiser

February 17, 2023 at the Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL

There is plenty of time to plan to join in the fun! Call (217) 787-9234 for info.

***Have an upcoming event? Email [hkelly@casscohealth.org](mailto:hkelly@casscohealth.org) with details.***

# Announcements

- Cass County Health Department has at home COVID-19 tests for anyone that needs them.
- Families may be eligible for Child Care Assistance - visit [www.wcccc.com](http://www.wcccc.com) or call 217-222-2550 for NEW and UPDATED CCCC information!
- Cass County Health Department has FREE Narcan available– no questions asked.
- Rental assistance funds are still unavailable at this time. Call Jeremy at MCS for updates and additional info. (217) 243-9404
- LIHEAP info:
  - November- for those who are disabled, over 60, living in a household with children 5 and under, or those with a disconnect notice or have already been disconnected.
  - December- for all others needing assistance.
  - *If you are unable to get through to anyone on the first try, please keep calling. This will be a very busy time, but if you keep calling you will get through to someone.*
- Safe Haven Hospice is actively seeking referrals and volunteers. They can offer grief counseling in a group setting, or one on one. Please call (855) 879-4096 for information.
- AgeLinc holds a Lunch + Learn the 3rd Wednesday monthly, and Dementia Caregiver Support on the 1st Tuesday monthly. Call Scott for info (217) 787-9234.
- Illinois workNet is in Beardstown at Lincoln Land Community College from 9:00 - 12:00 M-F. Call Christina at (217) 323-1859 to get connected to education, trainings, work force programs, and career resources today!
- Cass County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) volunteer training is now self-guided! Volunteers are greatly needed. Please call (217) 223-2272 for inquiries.
- West Central Child Care Connection is looking for anyone who is interested in becoming a child care provider. Know anyone who loves helping children learn and grow? Call Tina at (217) 222-2550.
- The Crisis Center Foundation in Jacksonville is happy to host a Lunch + Learn upon request. Call Anna or Miriam at (217) 243-4357 for info.
- Jacksonville Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation is looking for volunteers! They are always out and active in the community- to get involved call Jennifer at (217) 243-6451.
- Bella Ease is now open in Jacksonville, and is now serving Cass County!
- Community Hope & Recovery Center is offering counseling services to the community. Call Rick at (217) 323-2980 for more info.
- If you are interested in joining the Cass County Women's Health Group please sign up [HERE](#).



**Be sure to check-in  
through social media to  
keep up with what's up  
and coming in our  
communities. It's a great  
way to share event  
information and promote  
each other's work!**

# Local Job Listings

*\*we are not always aware of when these positions are filled, or come available. It is always best to check with the organization or their webpage when looking to apply for a job.\**

## **Midwest Youth Services**

MYS is hiring for a number of positions including: Homeless Youth Case Manager, Youth Employment and Education Specialist, Emergency Shelter Care Staff, and Crisis Interventionist.

**West Central Mass Transit** is hiring!! Call (217) 245-2900 to inquire about their open positions.

**Cass County Health Department** is hiring! To view open positions please visit our website or visit us online at [www.cassscohealth.org](http://www.cassscohealth.org) or call for info today! (217) 452-3057.

**U of IL Extension** Office is hiring for Unit 15 – Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Morgan, and Scott Counties. Please see the attached flyer for details about this position.

**The Crisis Center Foundation** in Jacksonville has an open position for a Domestic Violence Advocate. Please submit a cover letter and resume to [donal@jvilleccf.org](mailto:donal@jvilleccf.org) to apply.

**Bella Ease** in Jacksonville is now open and is also hiring! Call (217) 209-0632 for info.



# Interagency Member Highlight

## Patty Mendoza



My name is Patty Mendoza, and I am the Director of Adult Education and Literacy for Lincoln Land Community College. I stepped into this role four months ago. I bring over eleven years of experience in the field of adult education with my most recent tenure at Iowa Valley Community College District in Marshalltown, IA. Both my undergraduate and graduate degrees are in Organization Leadership which come in handy in my current role. I have 2 adult children ages 21 and 19 as well as a 5-year-old Miniature Schnauzer. I moved to Springfield for this great job opportunity, so I am new to the state as well.

Adult Education and Literacy is near and dear to my heart. My journey into Adult Education began when my family immigrated to the United States when I was very young. Growing up, I primarily spoke Spanish. My parents attended ESL classes during their adult years to better their English skills. I also found myself in ESL classes to improve my English during grade school. That early exposure and experience laid the foundation for my involvement in Adult Education. Watching students from all walks of life reach their goals is incredibly fulfilling and meaningful.

I can be reached at (217) 786-1630 or [Patty.Mendoza@llcc.edu](mailto:Patty.Mendoza@llcc.edu).

## NEXT MEETING:

**Wednesday, January 17th , 2024 from 11:00 - 12:00**

**Cass County Health Department  
331 S. Main St., Virginia, IL 62691**

**We will have a zoom option for this meeting as well. The link will be shared closer to the meeting date.**



**This is the official newsletter of the Cass County Interagency Coalition. Use this newsletter to stay updated on community events and opportunities to get involved. Do you have an event or idea you would like to include in the next issue? Email Hillary Kelly ([hkelly@casscohealth.org](mailto:hkelly@casscohealth.org)) with a brief summary. All members of the coalition will receive this newsletter as it is released.**

If after reading this you realize there is something you want to recommend for the community to work on lets start a discussion about it. There is always a possibility of partners to make that event happen!

Thank you all for your continued dedication!