

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Monday, April 13, 2020 9:00 AM

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Meeting Recording:

Topic: COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers (April 8-June 30 invite)

Date: Apr 13, 2020 08:46 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Meeting Agenda

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers
April 13th Agenda



City of Austin / Austin Public Health



ECHO – Local Operations



Agency Updates



Wrap Up – Next Call: Wednesday, April 15th @ 9:00am

Meeting Notes:

COA/ APH – Vella Karman

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/austins-homeless-strategy-covid-19-support>

<http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>

- 774 COVID-19 cases in Travis County. There have been 9 deaths and 140 people have recovered
- No update on number of people experiencing homelessness who have tested positive. 2 people have has recovered
- Pro-Lodge 2 opening today
 - 60 guest capacity
- Austin City Council approved allocating \$15 million from their emergency reserve fund, RISE (Relief in a State of Emergency)
 - Funding will go towards improving food access, case management, and assistance with rent/mortgage, utilities, and medical and childcare expenses
 - Press release: <https://www.austintexas.gov/news/city-council-approves-relief-state-emergency-fund-provide-immediate-and-direct-relief-vulnerable-austinites>
- Food access
 - Distributing prepared meals starting tomorrow (4/14/20)
 - Meals going to Angel House, Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center, and Central Presbyterian Church

- Distribution points at 7th I-35 underpass, 15th & I-35, Waller Creek, Republic Square, Central Library, YMCA, and Amtrak station
 - MLF distributing dinner time meals downtown at their regular locations
 - Meal distribution schedule:
 - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rcmemaTNoTb_2rG8Viz7TcSWQu9vL60eMeDVP-FBKVk/edit?usp=sharing
 - Working on details to distribute prepared meals from the Convention Center
 - If you'd like to help deliver meals, contact Amanda Rohlich, Amanda.Rohlich@austintexas.gov, or Michelle Myles, distributionmichelle.myles@austintexas.gov
 - Shelf-stable meal bags are available at the Convention Center
 - Service providers can contact Wes Bickham, 512-492-5826, for details
- Communications
 - Revisions to austintexas.com/homelessness will go live today
 - Working with food access team to distribute educational materials
- DACC
 - Continues to offer walk in case management triage services, 8am – 5pm Monday – Friday
 - 347 people served since March 16th, averaging 17 people a day
 - DACC helps organize the Austin Homelessness Advisory Council (AHAC)
 - AHAC is a group of people with lived experience of homelessness that is available to provide input/feedback via surveys on policies and services
 - Today, 4/13/20, group will be collecting feedback on the City's communications efforts around COVID-19
 - is providing periodic feedback via surveys
 - Other agencies can request feedback from AHAC at upcoming meetings (4/27/20 and 5/11/20)
 - Contact Laura Williamson, laura.williamson2@austintexas.gov 512-293-7210
 - L Williams will help draft surveys which consist of 8-10 open-ended questions
 - 2-week turnaround time to receive feedback

ECHO – Kate Moore

- Coordination Workgroups
 - Outreach – Katie Rose
 - Mondays at 8:00am
 - Contact katierose@austinecho.org
 - Permanent housing programs – Bree Williams, Laura Evanoff
 - Thursday 10:00 – 11:30am
 - Contact breewilliams@austinecho.org or lauraevanoff@austinecho.org
 - Healthcare system – Niki Kozak
 - Fridays at 8:00am
 - Contact nikikozak@austinecho.org
 - Emergency shelter – Preston Petty
 - Wednesdays 11:30am – 1:00pm
 - Contact prestonpetty@austinecho.org
- Continuing to work with the City to identify more hotel sites
- Developing reports to track who is entering/exiting Pro-Lodge sites
 - Includes tracking the pathways used to refer people to the Pro-Lodge sites
 - Will be shared on a regular basis

Agency Updates

- Front Steps
 - CommunityCare staff have been at The ARCH conducting “active surveillance testing”
 - This entails testing individuals (clients and staff) who are not symptomatic or reporting symptoms to proactively identify cases
 - No additional positive test results have been found
 - CommunityCare back at The ARCH today with around 100 COVID-19 tests to expand this initiative by testing as many clients staying at The ARCH as possible

Chat Box

From Laura Evanoff to Everyone: 08:59 AM

Happy Monday! Please type your questions in the group chat. If they are not answered during the call today - we will try to have a response by the next call on Wednesday!
Please feel free to share your updates or announcements when we get to the Agency Updates section. You can also type them in the group chat!

From larafoss to Everyone: 09:03 AM

Austin City Council approved allocating \$15 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund to establish the City’s Relief in a State of Emergency (RISE) Fund to support COVID-19 emergency relief for Austin residents
<https://www.austintexas.gov/news/city-council-approves-relief-state-emergency-fund-provide-immediate-and-direct-relief-vulnerable-austinites>

From Dylan Shubitz to Everyone: 09:03 AM

will this money be going exclusively to organizations with existing APH contracts?

From Wes Bickham to Everyone: 09:04 AM

Wes Bickham

From Amanda Rohlich to Everyone: 09:04 AM

Email Amanda.Rohlich@austintexas.gov if you are interested in distributing prepared meals.

From Wes Bickham to Everyone: 09:05 AM

512-492-5826

From mylesm to Everyone: 09:05 AM

For food distributionmichelle.myles@austintexas.gov

From Cate Graziani to Everyone: 09:05 AM

Is there a written list of the distribution schedule for prepared meals?

From Dylan Shubitz to Everyone: 09:06 AM

when you say the money will be used for case management, does this mean expanding case mgmt capacity with new hires?

From Amanda Rohlich to Everyone: 09:06 AM

Meal Distribution Locations and Schedule:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rcmemaTNoTb_2rG8Vlz7TcSWQu9vL60eMeDVP-FBKVk/edit?usp=sharing

From Akeshia Johnson Smothers to Everyone: 09:06 AM

These funds will be available to agencies who meet eligibility requirements that are AND are not current APH contractors.

From IritUmani to Everyone: 09:06 AM

What information can you share with us regrading positive cases in Salvation Army and Front Steps?

From mylesm to Everyone: 09:06 AM

Food Distribution Amanda.rohlich@austintexas.gov

From Rhie Azzam Morris to Everyone: 09:06 AM

Can the Austin Youth Collective connect offline for how to support this with AHAC?

From Dylan Shubitz to Everyone: 09:09 AM

Can any of the \$15 million be used for permanent housing?

Is APH the sole city entity tasked with prioritizing spending of the \$15M?