

# COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Monday, April 17, 2020 9:00 AM

Barrera, Patricia <Patricia.Barrera@austintexas.gov>; Kelly White <kwhite@safeaustin.org>; Julia Spann <jspann@safeaustin.org>; natasha.burton@anewentry.org; Monique Coleman <Monique.Coleman@traviscountytexas.gov>; Karman, Vella <Vella.Karman@austintexas.gov>; Kathleen.Ridings@uss.salvationarmy.org; Greg McCormack (GMcCormack@frontsteps.org); Matthew Mollica <matthewmollica@austinecho.org>; Darilynn Cardona-Beiler <Darilynn.Cardona-Beiler@integralcare.org>; susan.mcdowell@lifeworksaustin.org; Kent Herring <KHerring@familyeldercare.org>; Jo Kathryn Quinn <jkquinn@caritasofaustin.org>; Peter Daniels <Peter.Daniels@anewentry.org>; Dawn Handley <Dawn.Handley@integralcare.org>; Laura Sovine <lsovine@austinrecovery.org>; Darrin Acker <dacker@cforr.org>; rteich@foundationhomeless.org; jlong@casamarianella.org; tnichols <tnichols@frontsteps.org>; Justine Price <justine.price@wilco.org>; Mercer, Tim <Tim.Mercer@communitycaretx.org>; Mercer, Timothy I <tim.mercer@austin.utexas.edu>; Kuang, Audrey <Audrey.Kuang@communitycaretx.org>; Chris Baker <chris@toofound.org>; Shontell Gauthier <SGauthier@familyeldercare.org>; Christine Laguna <Christine.Laguna@integralcare.org>; Robert P. Dominguez <robert.dominguez@integralcare.org>; Foss, Lara <Lara.Foss@austintexas.gov>; Soleece Watson <soleece.watson@anewentry.org>; Cacki Young <Cacki.Young@Foundcom.org>; Amber Fogarty <amber@mlf.org>; Alan Graham <alan@mlf.org>; Valdez, Pete [Community Court] <Pete.Valdez@austintexas.gov>; Kingham, Robert <Robert.Kingham@austintexas.gov>; mark@sunriseaustin.org; Karen Dorrier <Karen.Dorrier@integralcare.org>; Myles, Michelle <Michelle.Myles@austintexas.gov>; Johnson-Smothers, Akeshia <Akeshia.Johnson-Smothers@austintexas.gov>; Kirscht, Estella <Estella.Kirscht@austintexas.gov>; Niki Kozak <nikikozak@austinecho.org>; Kate Moore <katemoore@austinecho.org>; Sowinski, Jennifer <Jennifer.Sowinski@austintexas.gov>; Teri Yates <teriyates@austinecho.org>; Katie Rose <katierose@austinecho.org>; Christopher.Shorter@austintexas.gov; barbara@poppeassociates.com; matthewdoherty.consulting@gmail.com; mwhite@housinginnovations.us; Larisa Corder <larisacorder@austinecho.org>; angelhouse@austinbaptistchapel.com; Axton Nichols <axtonnichols@austinecho.org>; Cate Graziani <cgraziani@harmreductiontx.org>; chrisharris101 <chrisharris101@gmail.com>; Sarah Duzinski <sarahduzinski@austinecho.org>; ELT <ELT@NETORGFT2096939.onmicrosoft.com>; Powell-Evans, Simon <Simon.Powell-Evans@austintexas.gov>; Korey Darling <Korey.Darling@traviscountytexas.gov>; Lawrence Lyman <Lawrence.Lyman@traviscountytexas.gov>; Elizabeth Baker <Elizabeth.Baker@integralcare.org>; ericka.robinson@anewentry.org; Mark Hilbelink <mhilbelink02@yahoo.com>; Patti McCabe <pmccabe@casamarianella.org>; kevin@mlf.org; Irit Umani <Irit@TrinityCenterAustin.org>; wthurman@utexas.edu; Craig, Ken <Ken.Craig@austintexas.gov>; mark@marklittlefield.com; Megan Podowski <mpodowski@caritasofaustin.org>; Rohlich, Amanda <Amanda.Rohlich@austintexas.gov>; David Gomez <David.Gomez@integralcare.org>; Shlachter, Zack <Zack.Shlachter@austintexas.gov>; Bronwyn Towart <bronwyn.towart@lifeworksaustin.org>; Whitney Bright <whitneybright@austinecho.org>; Melissa Wheeler <melissawheeler@austinecho.org>; Quiana Fisher <QFisher@caritasofaustin.org>

## Meeting Recording:

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

Date: Apr 17, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/3P5NEr778CRJbafBxVPYf\\_UrMLjHaaa8gHdLrvYlyBvp6pk6ojS89dbr-nFcZyF3](https://zoom.us/rec/share/3P5NEr778CRJbafBxVPYf_UrMLjHaaa8gHdLrvYlyBvp6pk6ojS89dbr-nFcZyF3)

Access code: p1?w8=M4

# Meeting Agenda

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers  
April 17<sup>th</sup> Agenda



City of Austin / Austin Public Health



Agency Updates



Wrap Up – Next Call: Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am

## Meeting Notes:

COA/ APH – Vella Karman, Matthew Doherty

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

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

- 1029 COVID-19 cases in Travis County. 18 deaths and 201 people recovered
  - Includes 24 people experiencing homelessness, 2 of which have recovered
    - The count of cases among people experiencing homelessness is likely an undercount due to private labs and providers not necessarily recording each person's housing status when they test
- New order from Austin/Travis County Health Authority stating **everyone must wear a fabric mask when outside the home or in public**
  - Physical distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals in still in affect
  - Order may be viewed here:  
[http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/document\\_96DEBEEC-E581-05E0-8A3D444404948A84.pdf](http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/document_96DEBEEC-E581-05E0-8A3D444404948A84.pdf)
- Isolation (Iso-Fac) and Protective Lodging (Pro-lodge) sites
  - Integral Care is providing remote behavioral services to Iso-Fac and Pro-Lodges 1 and 2
    - Workers will be on site starting next week
  - Personal laundry services are available at Pro-Lodges 1 and 2
- 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>
- More details to come later
- Food access for people experiencing homelessness
  - Zach Shlachter is acting as volunteer coordinator for food access services
    - People interested in helping out can email Zach at [zach.shlachter@austintexas.gov](mailto:zach.shlachter@austintexas.gov)
  - Central Texas Food Bank delivered another shipment of shelf-stable on Thursday that will be delivered to unsheltered homeless population
    - Wes Bickham is the point of contact to access these food bags
      - Call Wes at 512-492-5826
- Communications
  - Eating Apart Together announced
    - This is an initiative to get food to people experiencing homelessness
    - Press release: <http://austintexas.gov/news/food-distribution-launched-people-experiencing-homelessness>
    - Website: <http://austintexas.gov/department/eat-initiative>
  - Communications team printed additional informational flyers that will be included with shelf-stable food packages distributed
- DACC
  - Continues to offer walk in case management triage services, 8am – 5pm, Monday – Friday
  - Served 410 individuals, approx. 17 people a day
  - Downtown First Methodist Church will continue donating snack bags for DACC clients
- Austin’s COVID-19 Homeless Response Plan [please reference the meeting recording to view the draft “Homeless Response Plan Implementation Structure” document]
  - 5 core objectives
    1. Comprehensive screening processes for sheltered and unsheltered people
    2. Securing and operating sites and rooms to provide alternate living arrangements (Hotel/Motel strategy)
    3. Supporting people to transition and exit from homelessness
    4. Ensuring appropriate social distancing, safety, and hygiene protocols
    5. Addressing the needs of people who are unsheltered
  - Response plan includes a set of activities identified under each of the core objectives and which agencies are taking lead on those activities
  - Project Management Team includes both City of Austin and ECHO leadership. Implementation teams operating under the Project Management Team include
    - Hotel/Motel Implementation Team (objectives 2 and 3)
    - Emergency Shelter and Unsheltered Implementation team (objectives 1, 4, and 5)
    - 2 additional teams to be implemented in the near future
      - Funding Strategies Team
      - Rehousing Strategies Implementation Team
- Dashboard on City’s website has details on positive cases

## Agency Updates

- Casa Marianella
  - A couple people at the shelter who appeared sick and were placed in isolation. However, it does not appear those people had COVID-19
- Integral Care PATH Team has taken over food distribution up north

- Planning to increase screening in that area
- The Salvation Army
  - Working to reopen downtown social service center following cleaning and reorganizing
  - Suggestion to re-examine protocols around working with parents with children
    - Trying not to separate families
    - Making sure children's needs are met if parent/caregiver is incapacitated
- Lifeworks
  - PORT shelter remains operational
  - Street outreach continues
  - 30 youths were placed in permanent housing in March
- Caritas
  - Normal operations continue including rapid rehousing programs
- MLF
  - 50 homes have been completed or are nearing completion as part of Phase II of Community First! Village
- Harm Reduction Alliance
  - Questions about the availability of mediation assisted treatment for people placed in temporary shelters (Iso-fac, Pro-lodge) and whether that assistance would continue after the current crisis is over

## Chat Box

### **From Iarafoff to Everyone: 09:02 AM**

Stay Home Work Safe Link:

[http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/document\\_96DEBEEC-E581-05E0-8A3D444404948A84.pdf](http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/document_96DEBEEC-E581-05E0-8A3D444404948A84.pdf)

### **From Laura Evanoff to Everyone: 09:02 AM**

Happy Friday! Please feel free to type any questions in the group chat!

### **From MLF Host to Everyone: 09:02 AM**

Can you repeat the number of people experiencing homelessness who have tested positive? My audio had a glitch when you were sharing that number.

### **From Me to Everyone: 09:03 AM**

1029

24 people experiencing homelessness

### **From Amber Fogarty to Everyone: 09:03 AM**

Thank you!

### **From Iarafoff to Everyone: 09:05 AM**

RISE Funding:

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

Zack Shlachter - [zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov](mailto:zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov)

EAT Press Release link:

<http://austintexas.gov/news/food-distribution-launched-people-experiencing-homelessness>

Webpage:

<http://austintexas.gov/department/eat-initiative>

**From IritUmani to Everyone: 09:13 AM**

Do we know how many un-sheltered folks were tested to date?

BTW, given how many organizations, individuals and entities are in this collaboration, we all should be amazed with how much has been done and is progressing. Thank you all.

**From Dylan Shubitz to Everyone: 09:16 AM**

is APH prepared to answer questions about RISE funds today?

**From Akeshia Johnson Smothers to Everyone: 09:18 AM**

Ah

A

All RISE funding questions should be sent to [risefunding@austintexas.gov](mailto:risefunding@austintexas.gov)

**From Quiana Fisher to Everyone: 09:21 AM**

Woooooohooooo! Way to go Lifeworks!!!!

**From dxcaDarilynn Cardona-Beiler to Everyone: 09:22 AM**

That's wonderful news Susan!

**From bronwyn.towart to Everyone: 09:22 AM**

We also housed a young parent and her child this week through Lifeworks young parent program.

**From Matthew Doherty to Everyone: 09:23 AM**

So great to hear that people are getting housed through so many different agencies! Thank you for that great work!

**From Amber Fogarty to Everyone: 09:24 AM**

I'm so proud of this amazing community! Grateful for all of you and your commitment to our neighbors :) Have a great weekend!

**From Quiana Fisher to Everyone: 09:26 AM**

Can we get the race/ ethnicity demographics regarding the people being served at the Pro-lodges and Iso?

**From Susan.McDowell to Everyone: 09:26 AM**

As the City gears up for receiving ESG funds, please get input from the organizations that are moving aggressively to house people in RRH right now. We have had to get creative, but we are making it work well.

**From Quiana Fisher to Everyone: 09:26 AM**

Thank you so much.

**From larafoss to Everyone: 09:27 AM**

<http://austintexas.gov/covid19>

**From Quiana Fisher to Everyone: 09:27 AM**  
what about tested?

**From Preston Petty to Everyone: 09:28 AM**  
Thanks Laura!