

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Wednesday May 27, 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: May 27, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tM4kJpys6GVLROX10kPlcfEwA6X6T6a8gXcc8vVbyUxt24Uo_xfqRctuuwqvTzNpE

Password: 0C%7=TJf

Meeting Agenda

↳ Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers
May 27th Agenda



City of Austin / Austin Public Health



Agency Updates



Wrap Up – Next Call: Friday, May 29nd @ 9:00am

Meeting Notes:

COA – Laura Foss

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

- 2984 confirmed COVID-29 cases in Travis County; 1040 recovered; and 88 deaths
- Demographic information on cases available at <http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>
 - At least 46 individuals experiencing homelessness have tested positive, including 24 that 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.
 - Austin Public Health launched an online enrollment form for free COVID-19 testing
 - Form will allow people to take self-assessment to determine eligibility and schedule a free test without a medical provider referral
 - <http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>
 - Click “self-assessment” button to create an account and complete the questionnaire listing your symptoms
- Austin Public Health published a Color-Coded Chart
 - To help residents understand the stages of risk during pandemic, and
 - To provide recommendations on what people should do to stay safe
 - New Risk based guidelines

- 5 distinct stages of risk
 - 1=Lowest threat stage to
 - 5=Most serious threat stage
 - With recommended behaviors for each stage of risk
 - Access it here <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/covid-19-risk-based-guidelines>
 - Order from Austin/Travis County Health Authority stating **masks when outside the home or in public are recommended**
 - Physical distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals is still recommended
 - Quarantine and Alternate Facilities
 - Pro-Lodges 1-4 are operational
 - All ProLodges are secure and not open to the public
 - If any agency is interested in learning more about the Pro-lodge operations and services please contact Robert at Robert.Kingham@austintexas.gov
 - If other programs have capacity to work with people staying at Pro-Lodge sites, please contact Vella Karmen, vella.karmen@austintexas.gov
 - Eating Apart Together (EAT); Food access for people experiencing homelessness
 - Central Texas Food Bank utilizing City of Austin RAISE funds to provide 3 additional weeks of shelf stable meal bags
 - Austin received it's first shipment May 21st
 - The remaining shipments are May 28th, June 4th, and June 11th
 - The agreement will allow the EAT initiative to increase the amount of shelf stable food bags going out to people experiencing homelessness
 - And some of those meals will go to those who are recently housed
 - The Convention Center and Parks and Recreation staff
 - Producing 1,000 shelf stable bags of food designated for individuals living in encampments outside of the downtown core
 - Producing 1,000 shelf stable bags for those living unsheltered around the downtown core and individuals recently housed and enrolled in housing case management
 - EAT Initiative will continue to investigate food access needs for those experiencing homelessness
 - To determine the scope and length of need as a response to COVID19
 - Austin Resource Recover
 - Increased trash picking to every day at Violet bag location to accommodate trash needs associated with EAT initiative
 - The EAT 123 survey
 - Include information on encampment trash pickup needs
 - EAT has the hopes of providing or increasing trash pickup in the identified locations
 - Or send information to Michelle.miles@austintexas.gov
 - If you want to participate in any aspect of Eating Apart Together Initiative Zach Shlachter at zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov

- Communications
 - Homeless Communications Team's working on a project to text those experiencing homelessness notifications;
 - About COVID19,
 - How to stay safe,
 - How to access services, and
 - How to meet needs
 - There are parameters on messaging and the frequency of messaging but
 - Group text is available to those experiencing homelessness
 - If your agency has provided phones that have texting plans (does not have to be Smart Phones) and are interesting in participating in this program email laura.foss@austintexas.gov
- Downtown Austin Community Court Update (DACC)
 - Continue to offer walk-in triage case management services 8am-5pm Monday through Friday
 - Triage case manager provides flyers to all clients with information on COVID-19 and safety planning
 - And since March 16th they have served 999 individuals, an average of 19 individuals a day
 - Individuals accessing basic hygiene resources or client's case managers reach remotely are not factored into this number
 - On Friday the 15th DACC obtained 24 food kits from the Austin Convention Center
 - To provide to the housed case managed clients
- City of Austin's Homeless COVID19 Support Strategy-Housing First Request for Qualifications Statements (RFQS) Solicitation
 - Extended for 2 weeks
 - To establish a contract with one or more qualified nonprofit or governmental agencies to provide operation management and support services for converted motels
 - Will close on May 28th at 2 PM to Central Purchasing
 - More information on the solicitation and how to apply can be found here https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=134322

Agency Updates

None

Chat Box

Andrew Willard 07:41

Good Morning Everyone! We'll be starting in 3 min. Please feel free to drop comments, updates, and questions into the chat!