

COVID19 Updates & Reports-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Wednesday, May 6, 2020 9:00 AM

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Meeting Recording:

Topic: COVID19 Updates & Reports-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers (April 8-June 30 invite)
Date: May 6, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/xN1wd6jlx0lOHrOS6ALRZvEjDN-9X6a81SJI-fQNxEvpHehppJ2krp9ScYkM05lh>

Password: 6U?%.&99

Meeting Agenda

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers
May 6th Agenda



City of Austin / Austin Public Health



Agency Updates



Wrap Up – Next Call: Friday, May 8th @ 9:00am

Meeting Notes:

COA– Laura Foss

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

- 1876 confirmed COVID-19; 579 recovered; and 58 deaths
- Demographic information on cases available at <http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>
 - At least 38 individuals experiencing homelessness have tested positive, including 22 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 COVID-19 testing
 - Form will allow people to take self-assessment to determine eligibility and schedule a test without a medical provider referral
 - <http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>
 - Click “self-assessment” button to create an account and complete the questionnaire
- May 5th Work Session-City Council
 - Intersection of COVID-19 and homelessness was discussed

- Click this link to watch the discussion
<http://austintx.swagit.com/play/05052020-695>
- 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:
 - ProLodges 1-3 are operational, and at full capacity,
 - Considering options for a 4th ProLodge
 - Integral Care behavioral health teams are providing services at IsoFac and ProLodge 1, 2, and 3
 - Front Steps staff are working on providing case management services at all 3 ProLodges
 - If other programs have capacity to work with people staying at ProLodge sites, please contact Vella Karmen, vella.karmen@austintexas.gov
- Downtown Efforts
 - 28 Downtown Ambassadors, 2 APD Officers, and 3 HOST members were on site under I-35 providing trash removal and,
 - Distributed water, masks, educational flyers, and other supplies for 2 hours
 - Thank you, Downtown Austin Alliance, for spearheading
- Food access for people experiencing homelessness; Eating Apart Together (EAT)
 - The 5th out of the 6 scheduled shipments from the Central Texas Food Bank of shelf stable food will be this **Thursday May 7th**
 - Exploring more efforts/sources for shelf-stable food so distribution can continue beyond the 6 weeks
 - Shelf-stable meal bags, prepared meals, water, and hygiene items are still being distributed throughout Austin by The City of Austin Travis County Community Partners to those who are experiencing homelessness
 - If you want to participate in any aspect of Eating Apart Together Initiative Zach Shlachter at zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov
- Communications
 - City has provided guidance on activities and information for businesses that have recently reopened or plan to open under Gov. Abbotts April 17th executive order GA18
 - Which supersedes some provisions of the stay-at-home work safe order
 - This helps define some of the changes that went into effect Friday
 - Should provide an FAQ about specific items
 - Coms. Team is working with the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) on a communications tool to text those who are experiencing homelessness who have been given a cell phone regarding staying safe, meeting needs, and accessing services
 - DACC and Integral Care have been giving out cell phones
 - ECHO and Front Steps are looking to do the same
 - If you would like to participate in the texting program email Lara Foss at lara.foss@austintexas.gov

- Hygiene Update
 - 2 new Shower trailers
 - Finalizing location placements
 - Contracting with Family Elder Care and The Other Ones Foundation to operate at different locations in Austin
- Down Town Community Court Update
 - Continue to offer walk in triage case management services 8am-5pm Monday through Friday
 - Provide flyers to all clients on COVID-19 and safety planning
 - 44 people served this week through triage case management
 - And since March 16th they 678 individuals were served, an average of 18 individuals a day
 - Individuals accessing basic hygiene resources are not factored into this number, or
 - Clients case managers reach remotely
- Austin Housing Finance Cooperation and The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA)
 - Launching Austin's Relief of Emergency Needs for Tenants (RENT) Program
 - Provides one-time emergency rental assistance to Austin households experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19
 - Austin residents can apply through HACA's rent website (application is online only) starting May 4th at 9am till tonight May 6th at 11:59pm
 - www.atxRentHelp.org
 - Applicants will be randomly selected from all applications received through these dates

Agency Updates:

- None

ECHO Updates:

- Starting Friday
 - Implementation teams (laid out in memorandum last Friday) will start sharing out decisions, upcoming discussions, and possible asks from this group
- COVID Coordination meetings this week
 - Emergency Shelter Task Group this Wednesday at noon
 - Street Outreach Coordination this Wednesday at 2:30 PM
 - Homelessness Response Coordination Meeting Friday at 10:30 AM
 - Email Andrew Willard for access or with questions at andrewwillard@austinech.org

Chat Box

From larafoss to Everyone: 09:00 AM

Good morning.

From larafoss to Everyone: 09:08 AM

For demographic breakdowns and more information, you can visit the <http://austintexas.gov/covid19> web site

The enrollment form for the Public Testing portal is available at AustinTexas.gov/COVID19.

You can watch the Council Work Session here:
<http://austintx.swagit.com/play/05052020-695>

If any programs have capacity to serve clients at these Pro-lodge sites, please contact Vella Karman at Vella.Karman@austintexas.gov

If you are interested in participating in any aspect of Eating Apart Together please contact Zach Shlachter (zach.shlachter@austintexas.gov).

If you would like to participate in the texting program email Lara Foss at lara.foss@austintexas.gov

Austin residents may apply through HACA's RENT website at atxRentHelp.org starting on May 4th at 9:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. on May 6th. The application is online only.