

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Wednesday June 10, 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: June 10, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/1-B-LKDUqUFIE4mOzx_jRYB6OJriaaa8hnJNrPMNnkv4YobLmstsC4uTGavR72uO

Password: 9E=93Z97

Meeting Agenda

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers
June 3rd Agenda



City of Austin / Austin Public Health



Agency Updates



Wrap Up – Next Call: Friday, June 5th @ 9:00am

Meeting Notes:

COA – Laura Foss

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

- 3976 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Travis County; 3182 recovered; and 99 deaths
- Demographic information on cases available at <http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>
 - Using the same data from Friday the 5th at least 48 individuals experiencing homelessness have tested positive, including 26 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.
- City has extended stay at home orders till **June 15th** to be in line with Travis County
- 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 with some rooms available
 - Bed management team will hold some of those rooms open for Iso-Fac discharges
 - 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
 - Anticipates 6 more weeks of shelf stable food from Central Texas Food Bank
 - Will allow to continue the operations
 - This round will begin June 18th with no disruptions in services
 - City's contract with Revolution Food for prepared meals will end June 21st
 - Continuing to look into potential options for prepared meal services
 - 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
 - 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 Updates
 - Joint Information System put out a release on the EAT Initiative this morning
 - Informing that the Initiative has distributed 100,000 meals
 - Highlights the many partnerships it took to make that milestone possible
 - Access the release here <https://www.austintexas.gov/news/community-partners-serve-100000-meals-citys-eat-initiative-those-experiencing-homelessness>
 - ATXN will host weekly virtual COVID19 media Q & A today at 10:30 AM with Austin Public Health Officials
 - Recognizing Austin Public Health has limited availability to participate in one on one interviews as they are actively responding to the COVID19 crisis
 - The value and importance of the media communicating to the public about important information on COVID19 and how to stay safe is understood to be of value
 - You can watch the Q & A on the live ATXN-2 stream
 - ATXN-1 will not be streaming this media availability because it will be airing a council committee meeting
 - City of Austin is launching a new hub for opportunities for Austin community members to help during COVID19
 - If your organization has opportunities for people to help with COVID19 related activities i.e. donations or volunteer opportunities
 - Please sign up on the Hub

- We are using Gif Polls as the platform
 - If you sign up your organization Gif Poll is offering a free Silver Account to post your opportunities
 - Will launch that program to the public next Monday June the 15th
 - Will be promoted by City leaders, elected officials, newsletter, press releases, social media, email marketing, and more
 - NextDoor account reaches over 300,000 households
 - We are happy to launch that as long as there are a lot of opportunities for our constituency to volunteer and help in a crisis
 - You can access the website here
<http://austintexas.gov/department/covid-19-how-help-austin>
 - Saturday June 13th at 10 AM the City of Austin and Austin-Travis County will host a Town Hall
 - Discussing ways to improve access to health care, health outcomes, and provide support to our communities of color during COVID19 and beyond
 - For information go to <http://austintexas.gov/covid19>
 - More details Friday
- Hygiene Update
 - Homelessness Task force and the Parks and Recreation Department are working with the Public Works Department to gain permission for more mobile showers in South Austin
 - They are also working with the United Methodist Church on Guadalupe St to gain permission to have mobile showers there
 - And they are finalizing permissions with TEXDOT for land use and processing the licenses and registration of 2 more shower trailers
- 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 COVID19 and safety planning
 - June 5th, 8th, and 9th DACA served 90 individuals through triage
 - And since March 16th they have served 1,309 individuals, an average of over 19 individuals a day
 - Individuals accessing basic hygiene resources or client's case managers reach remotely are not factored into this number
 - They continue to provide food kits from the Austin Convention Center to housed case-managed clients and Food and hygiene kits from First Methodist Church
 - DACA assembled cleaning and hygiene packs to provide to their housed clients
 - Supplies to assist with maintaining a clean environment during COVID19. They include;
 - Toilet paper, tissues, body soap, laundry soap, dryer sheets, bottle of disinfectant cleaner, toothpaste, dish soap, and cleaning clothes

ECHO Updates:

- Next Call is Friday June 12th
 - Implementation team updates will take place

Agency Updates

None

Chat Box:

Andrew Willard 15:54

Feel free to drop Agency updates, comments, or question into the chat!

Larafoss 19:02

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

If any agency is interested in learning more about the Pro-lodge operations and services please contact Robert at Robert.Kingham@austintexas.gov

All Pro-lodge facilities are secure and not open to the public.

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

Larafoss 19:12

Please include information regarding trash pickup needs for encampments in the EAT Initiative 1,2,3 survey when food is distributed in the community or send this information to michelle.myles@austintexas.gov

The EAT Initiative is collecting data about trash with the hopes of providing/ or increasing trash pick-up service in the identified locations

If you are interested in participating in any aspect of the Eating Apart Together Initiative please contact Zack Shlachter (zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov).

Larafoss 19:26

EAT press release announcing the EAT Initiative has distributed 100,00 meals: <https://www.austintexas.gov/news/community-partners-serve-100000-meals-citys-eat-initiative-those-experiencing-homelessness>

You can watch the Austin Public Health Q&A on Livestream on ATXN 2 (no graphics). ATXN 1 will not be broadcasting this media availability. It will be airing a committee meeting.

How to Help Campaign <http://austintexas.gov/department/covid-19-how-help-austin>

Save the Date - On Saturday June 13th at 10:00 a.m. COA and Austin Travis County are hosting a townhall to discuss how we can improve access to healthcare, health outcomes, and provide support for our communities of color during COVID-19 and beyond. Visit <http://austintexas.gov/covid19> for more information