

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Friday June 19, 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@traviscountytx.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 <Isovine@austinrecovery.org>; Darrin Acker <dacker@cforr.org>; rteich@foundationhomeless.org; jlong@casamarianella.org; tnichols <tnichols@frontsteps.org>; Justine Price <jjustine.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@traviscountytx.gov>; Lawrence Lyman <Lawrence.Lyman@traviscountytx.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: June 12, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/yfROAJzt9lIWqfWwVvgRfQgQKj8T6a82iNN8_RYmB1qGg-vG64zLACYSAIgzimh

Password: 5a+000!\$

Meeting Agenda

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers
June 19th Agenda



City of Austin / Austin Public Health



Implementation Team Updates



Agency Updates



Wrap Up – Next Call: Wednesday, June 24th @ 9:00am

Meeting Notes:

COA – Laura Foss

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

- Emergency Operations Center began updating the software on the dashboard yesterday therefore
 - There were intermittent outages and
 - The data was not updated June 18th
 - Dashboard should be up this afternoon
- Data from Wednesday June 17th indicated 4,991 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Travis County; 3,817 recovered; and 109 deaths
- Demographic information on cases available at <http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>
 - At least 56 individuals experiencing homelessness have tested positive, including 30 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 **August 19th** due to a spike in cases
- Austin/Travis County Health Authority stating **masks when outside the home or in public are recommended and critical to stop the spread of the virus**

- Physical distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals is also recommended
- Quarantine and Alternate Facilities
 - Pro-Lodges 1-4 are operational
 - All Pro-Lodges 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 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
 - Has delivered the following to people experiencing homelessness
 - 37,886 prepared meals
 - 14,000 shelf stable bags of food
 - Contain 7-14 meals in each bag
 - 16,025 shelf stable meals
 - 30 pallets of bottled water
 - 6,000 1-gallon jugs of water
 - 300+ bags of dog food
 - 3,000 face masks
 - 6,000 rolls of toilet paper
 - Hygiene and feminine hygiene products
 - COVID19 educational flyers
 - US Census educational flyers
 - Extended through the end of July
 - Will continue to operate in its current form receiving shelf stable food from the Central Texas Food Bank
 - City has extended its contract with Revolutions Food for prepared meals for 4 additional weeks
 - Will extend to July 21st
 - 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 Update
 - To reduce technology barrier to accessing testing Austin Public Health has expanded the public testing enrollment to Nurse's Hotline
 - Those who want to complete the COVID19 public testing enrollment form over the phone can call 512-972-5560

- Once the assessment interview is completed the call taker will assist with scheduling a test
 - Hours for Nurse’s Hotline are
 - 8 AM – 6 PM Monday through Friday
 - 9 AM – 1 PM Saturday
 - Access it here
 - https://covid19.austintexas.gov/s/?language=en_US
 - City of Austin launched the How to Help Campaign-a new hub for opportunities for Austin community members to help during COVID19 yesterday June 16th
 - If your organization has opportunities for people to help with COVID19 related activities or you know of organizations that do
 - Please sign up on the Hub
 - We are using Give Poles as the platform
 - If you sign up your organization Gif Poll is offering a free Silver Account to post your opportunities
 - Between 25 – 30 opportunities currently up with over 2,000 visits to that sight
 - Press release went out this morning
 - You can access the website here
 - <http://austintexas.gov/department/covid-19-how-help-austin>
 - City’s committed to a transparent and inclusive budget development process that utilizes resident and stakeholder feedback to ensure budget priorities are being met
 - City’s looking for feedback on the city’s budget through July 1st
 - Access it here <https://www.speakupaustin.org/budget-2021>
 - 2 Upcoming virtual City Forums
 - Will be about available resources including COVID19 testing, food assistance, rental / utility assistance, health / mental health care, and substance use resources
 - One in English held on Saturday June 27th at 11 AM
 - 2nd forum will be held in Spanish on June 27th at 1 PM
 - 2nd Community Event focusing on persons of color July 11th
 - More information to come
- Hygiene Update
 - City working with Family Eldercare and The Other One’s Foundation on setting up and maintaining showers at
 - I 35 and 7th
 - The Methodist Church on Guadalupe
 - Slaughter Creek
 - The Other One’s Foundation has a mobile shower making rounds around the city
 - Access it here <http://toofound.org/mobile-hygiene-clinic/>

- City has it on the basic needs map as well, access it <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/resource-sites-map-covid-19-response>
- City is still maintaining the following
 - 4 Tech charging stations for mobile phones and technology
 - 8 food access sites
 - 8 hand washing stations
 - 10 restrooms
 - 14 basic needs sites (any three of those basic needs)
- Downtown Austin Community Court Update (DACC)
 - Continue to offer walk-in triage case management services 8am-5pm Monday through Friday
 - Added a 2nd triage staff member due to the volume of individuals experiencing homelessness requesting assistance
 - Triage case manager provides flyers to all clients with information on COVID19 and safety planning
 - June 17th and 18th DACC served 57 individuals through triage case management
 - And since March 16th they have served 1,550 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
- City's Homeless Support Strategy
 - Posted an open solicitation for CBDG and ESG Cares Act Funding
 - Seeks qualified applicants from social service providers that can demonstrate experience providing services using Rapid Rehousing, Homelessness Prevention, and/ or Diversion Interventions to persons experiencing or at eminent risk of experiencing homelessness in Austin and Travis County
 - Social Service Providers encouraged to submit application by June 24th no later than 12 PM
 - Access it here <https://www.austintexas.gov/article/rfa-005-covid-housing-2020-nps>
- HUD Announcements
 - Allocation of \$2.96 billion in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Funding
 - To support homeless Americans and individuals at risk of becoming homeless due to hardships such as job loss, wage reduction, or illness due to COVID19
 - Will be in addition to the \$1 billion of ESG grants
 - Released notification that \$10.8 million in additional ESG cares funding will be allocated to Austin
 - Waiting on more information on this
 - Access press release here https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_077

ECHO Updates:

- The Approved Austin COVID19 Homelessness Response Implementation Structure Plan
 - Project Management Team spearheading efforts with the joint collaboration between City and ECHO leadership
 - Underneath, made up of and informed by members of the homelessness response system, members of the social service cabinet, executive directors, there is
 - Hotel/Motel Implementation Team
 - Emergency Shelter and Unsheltered Implementation Team
 - Funding Strategies Implementation Team
 - Rehousing Strategies Implementation Team
 - Each is connected to some of the different objectives of the overall plan
- Emergency Shelter and Unsheltered Implementation Team
 - Discussion Items
 - Continuing to address the need for testing in congregate and shelter settings
 - New CDC guidance will be coming out soon
 - NHCHC webinar will be out soon as well but is postponed till CDC guidance is out so in alignment
 - Will share learnings and invite to community members
 - Recent discussions around creating a testing protocol for Emergency Shelters as well as Outreach
 - HealthCare for the Homeless is doing surveillance testing when they have capacity
 - Will update you all
 - Continuing to gather shelter resource needs and nightly bed utilization numbers
 - Prolodge waitlist continues to be staffed
 - Next Steps
 - Hoping to get approval of CDC Guidelines Document developed for our homelessness response system
 - Added addendum around clients that might not be as compliant with CDC guidelines in the shelters
 - Once finalized we will send it out
- Hotel/Motel Implementation Team
 - Discussion Items
 - Identifying funding to fill staffing needs at Prolodges
 - No one from the waitlist was pulled for Prolodges due to a spike in cases in the community which lead to a spike in people entering into the IsoFac that are experiencing homelessness
 - After those people are not contagious while being high risk, might go into Prolodges

- Will try and ensure space is available for them
 - Reviewed Prolodge guest surveys in order to determine participant needs and how to better serve individuals
 - More came in (65)
 - Decisions
 - Reviewed and approved Guest Grievance Policy during the middle of the week
 - So people at the Prolodges can have a way to get their grievances heard by staff
 - Next Steps
 - Develop a plan for decommissioning Prolodges as they are temporary
 - Make sure we serve individuals as best we can
 - Determine end date to know what we are working towards
 - Work to transition Prolodges away from current use
 - Continually talking about staffing plans for operations and onsite services
 - Difficult as it is only a temporary need for staff
 - Figuring out funding and how to get people in the door to staff Prolodges
- Funding Strategies Implementation Team
 - Discussion Items
 - City of Austin needs to submit the FY19-24 Consolidated Plan changes to HUD
 - Which needs to be approved with the plans for the first tranche of funding
 - Will need to resubmit again once the plan for the 2nd allocation is finalized
 - Once HUD approved the updated to the consolidated plan, we can then contract out with the RFA awards
 - Decisions
 - Updated the city's RFA page with information and questions as they have been coming in
 - Thank you for your work City of Austin Public Health's contracting department
 - Included the approved Priority Population Criteria for COVID19 funds
 - Evaluation criteria tool was approved by the Project Management Team and the appropriate evaluators have received training on RFA and the requirements
 - Next Steps
 - Update Action Plan for Federal Strategies Team to project upcoming deliverables, specifically
 - Around the 2nd tranche of funding
 - Finalizing

- Getting the funding out
 - Looking at modeling work and how we suspect tranche 1 funding will affect our community and
 - What needs are currently in our system and where we should prioritize tranche 2 resources
- Rehousing Strategies Implementation Team
 - Discussions
 - How to target the programs being created with COVID19 funds to the needs identified
 - Looking at pros and cons of targeting resources specifically to the Prologue residents versus the broader CDC high-risk clients
 - Having community discussions before decision is made
 - Next Steps
 - Sharing the pros and cons of the potential different focus populations with the Project Management Team for consideration
 - Determine if there is a consensus decision on the targeting of funds within the Rehousing Team and sharing those recommendations with the Project Management Team
 - Building upon existing system modeling to include tranche 1 funding and project unmet needs for tranche 2
- Project Management Team
 - Recent Discussions
 - Reviewed key discussion points and deliverables provided by Implementation teams
 - Working to synthesize the work across all 4 Implementation teams to ensure there is no duplication of work and
 - There is strategic alignment of work and timelines match
 - So work is not bottlenecked by any one team
 - Discussed plan for modeling Part 2 activities and process
 - Will be a group of ECHO, City staff, and city consultants that will look at
 - Impact of first RFA funds
 - How many people we can expect to serve and house
 - How to strategically deploy the 2nd RFA round of funding
 - Decisions
 - Approved Evaluation tool for RFA 1 released by the City of Austin in response to the 1st tranche of CARES Act funding
 - Approved format and 1st iteration of deliverables identified by each Implementation Team
 - Will guide work completed from 6/1/20 – 7/31/20
 - Agreed on strategy for Modeling Part 2 and approved the participants and activities associated with Modeling Part 2

- Next Steps
 - Asked Implementation Teams to provide more detailed deliverables from their teams
 - To see what other deliverables and scopes of work they are planning on completing in June and July
 - And the Team's internal timelines
 - Continue to work to help get the voices of lived expertise included in the Implementation phase of work
 - We are doing well in some areas will some need more focus in on
 - We need to give more support to people with lived expertise in order to build access to those spaces
 - Continue to focus on racial equity lens of the response
 - Will take place through the modeling and
 - Data collection and the synthesis of the data around racial equity in the ProLodges, unsheltered, and congregate spaces

Agency Updates

None

Chat Box:

From Andrew Willard to Everyone: 10:04 AM

Feel free to drop any comments, questions, or agency updates into the chat!

From Iara Foss to Everyone: 10:12 AM

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

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.

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

To reduce the technology barrier to accessing testing, APH has expanded public testing enrollment to its nursing hotline - 512-972-5560

https://covid19.austintexas.gov/s/?language=en_US

How to Help Campaign:

<http://austintexas.gov/department/covid-19-how-help-austin>

Budget engagement:

<https://www.speakupaustin.org/budget-2021>

Hygiene update:

<http://toofound.org/mobile-hygiene-clinic/>

<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/resource-sites-map-covid-19-response>

From Iara Foss to Everyone: 10:12 AM

The City has posted an Open solicitation for CDBG & ESG CARES Act funding. Social service providers are encouraged to submit an application by June 24, 2020 no later than 12 PM CST.

<https://www.austintexas.gov/article/rfa-005-covid-housing-2020-nps>

HUD released a notification that \$10.8M in additional ESG CARES Act funding will be allocated to the City of Austin (awaiting more details from HUD)

https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_20_077