

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

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Meeting Recording:

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/1JNqNJjPzH5IU6Pn5l7nUfEBHZvfeaa82iAX8qBfmRpaBj2X2sedS601DVyycfTn?
startTime=1585057785000](https://zoom.us/rec/share/1JNqNJjPzH5IU6Pn5l7nUfEBHZvfeaa82iAX8qBfmRpaBj2X2sedS601DVyycfTn?startTime=1585057785000)

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers March 24th Agenda



Agency Updates



Medical System Updates – Dr. Audrey Kuang & Dr. Tim Mercer



ECHO – National Updates and Local Planning – Matt Mollica & Kate Moore



City of Austin / Austin Public Health



Wrap Up – Next Call: Wednesday, 25th @ 9:00am (will open at 8:45am – updates in chat box)

ECHO –Matthew Mollica, Kate Moore, Laura Evanoff

Federal Update (Matt Mollica)

- Partisanship back and forth - Democrats released response to republican spending
- Dems came back with more money for people experiencing homelessness
- Hearing that we may be close to funding coming down
- Reach out to Matthew Mollica with any feedback on these topics via email/text

Local Update (Matt Mollica)

- HUD - ECHO provided feedback with some requests around how we can be more flexible in using dollars here for ATX Travis County CoC
 - Request NOFA be cancelled and replace with amendment process for this year
 - Asked to waive match requirements
 - Unit inspections self cert from landlord
 - Asked for relaxed documentation for programs right now, Local FMR instead of payment standards
 - Extend RRH financial assistance past 24 months - due to unstable housing market
 - Asked for changes in regulations for ESG on different levels
 - Working hard to relax standards associated with programs
 - Asked to relax standards on financial assistance and debt pay off
 - Asked to relax lease terms - minimum one-month lease terms

ECHO Operations (Kate Moore)

- COVID-19 Coordination Groups: ECHO staff are coordinating calls with the following coordination groups
 - Permanent Housing Programs (Bree Williams and Laura Evanoff)
 - **First call is on Thursday 3/26/20 from 10:00 – 11:30**

<https://zoom.us/j/744399925> Meeting ID: 744 399 925

- Homeless Service Providers and Health Care System (Niki Kozak)
- Emergency Night Shelter (Preston Petty)
- Outreach / Unsheltered Homelessness (Katie Rose)

CUC Health Care for the Homeless Team – Audrey Kuang

- Most of care teams within CUC are now moving to using tele-med
- Procedure is to screen first and will try to handle what they can over the phone and will do in person visits if needed
- CareCo and ARCH still open for visits - number to be posted on google doc
- Dental still on hold
- All routine non urgent diagnostic testing will be postponed for 3 months
- Hancock drive-thru Monday-Friday 9-4; Saturday/Sunday 9-1
 - <https://communitycaretx.org/locations/hancock.html>
- You can walk up if no vehicle available
- Dell Med has ATX Helps platform; community can put what their needs are, and folks can coordinate
 - <https://austincovid.openproposals.dellmed.utexas.edu/#/opportunities/5e7217f9abfb77f8c21048b>
- 500 units of hand sanitizer going to be donated to Care Connections Clinic; will reach out to partners when ready to distribute

City of Austin / Austin Public Health – Christopher Shorter

- Working on multiple hotel options - being cautious on announcement - first units fell through
- Working on first wave units for those who need quarantine, have symptoms, need isolation
- Working on large hotel with multiple hotels to follow
- APH / COA will be working very closely with ECHO and healthcare providers to establish clear protocols to prioritize and refer
- Depending on providers, ECHO, and healthcare providers to make sure as rooms come online that we are prioritizing appropriately
- Leveraging government facilities for restrooms; trying to extend the hours
- Working on handwashing stations, there is a backlog. Secured few stations yesterday.
- EOC to provide for supplies and materials we need through logistic section
- Exploring local opportunities as well, handwashing, restrooms etc.
- **COA staff support work w/ FOOD ACCESS:** [Amanda Rohlich \(Amanda.Rohlich@austintexas.gov\)](mailto:Amanda.Rohlich@austintexas.gov), Edwin Marty (Edwin.marty@austintexas.gov) and [Michelle Myles \(Michelle.Myles@austintexas.gov\)](mailto:Michelle.Myles@austintexas.gov) working to close gaps in food access.
 - Email List for Communication and Updates: [Emergency Food Contact List](#).
- APH fully understands that there is a resource need, continuing to work to fill this need
- Invite everyone to check austintexas.gov/homelessness for updates - trying to keep as up to date as possible and in real time as new updates come online
- Shelter In Place Order - will be announced today; no restrictions to people supporting homeless services & essential services
- Wants to relay the message that while APH hasn't been as transparent as need to be and as community would like – APH is working every day to bring hotel and motel rooms online and have been over the last few days and weeks

- As soon as information and first wave of rooms are available - community will know via ECHO

Agency Updates

Casa Marianella

<https://www.casamarianella.org/>

- Quarantine new arrivals, still taking new people
- No visitors on property
- New arrivals in hotels
- Isolation apartment set up in case anyone gets sick
- Reduce staff time on site to protect staff members

LifeWorks

<https://www.lifeworksaustin.org/>

- Emergency Shelter, 12 youth
- PORT TH program, 13 youth
- No visitors on site
- Taking temps as people come in the door and increased handwashing access and practices
- Encouraging youth to stay indoors as much as possible

MLF / CFV

<https://mlf.org/>

- No volunteers on campus
- 1/3 staff working from home
- Handwashing stations around property
- Food truck operation, half of the trucks are going out half are not
- Goal is to provide 3500 meals a week; currently at 2500, working to fill that gap

Integral Care

<https://integralcare.org/en/covid-19-update/>

- Clinic operations are open, appointment only across the board
- Call 512-472-health
- Housing services and outreach teams assessing operations and capacity
- Delivering phones to encampments when able and when has PPE
- Continuing to assess capacity; currently having problems obtaining proper PPE
- No new admissions to respite/recovery locations

Austin Recovery

<https://www.austinrecovery.org/>

- SUD / outpatient going online
- Payers approving telehealth services
- Residential is still taking new clients, setting aside safe rooms
- Staying committed to service clients at residential as best as possible
- Working on gathering PPE
- Volunteers making homemade masks (research-based design)

Texas Harm Reduction Alliance

<https://www.harmreductiontx.org/> and <http://www.austinharmreduction.org/>

- Outreach is limited
- Trying to go to encampments that are already generally served
- Trying to work with at least one person in the camp to make sure harm reduction supplies are distributed
- Will have to make new plan when shelter in place is ordered
- Supplies/outreach only, no one is coming into the drop-in center and not enrolling services

SAFE

<https://www.safeaustin.org/covid-19/>

- All offsite, answering calls and coordinating requests
- Counseling telehealth
- Sexual assault exams and advocacy still happening

A New Entry

<http://www.anewentry.org/>

- Screenings and intakes via phone
- Still accepting new clients
- Isolations and making sure that temperatures are being taken and clients are social distancing
- Going to continue to bring new people in as need arise with CDC guidelines being followed

DACC

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/community-court>

- Continue to remain open
- Providing CM services, one person in and one person out
- Telehealth
- Bus passes, HEB Cards,
- Admitting clients into treatment
- Working on getting phones for clients
- Working with foodbank to drop of food kits to clients

FFH

<https://www.foundationhomeless.org/>

- Little activity
- Breakfast at feed my people
- Downtown as fewer people as of right now; leftovers went to RATT

ARCH/Front Steps

<https://www.frontsteps.org/>

- Staying open 100 clients
- Limit shelter to reservations only
- Downtown has been quiet

Salvation Army

<http://salvationarmyaustin.org/>

- 3 shelter facilities open
- Downtown social service center not accepting new clients
- Crowded and reaching capacity
- Rather Berger and Austin shelter for women and children still accepting clients

- RRH home visits are via phone
- Assessing what new shelter in place order and how it will affect operations

Resources

- COA Homeless Strategy page: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/austins-homeless-strategy-covid-19-support>
- Google Drive Folder (drop docs/flyers to share)
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13MPhvSwdYqfNHASyfnOZgb0x9ScsHGmE>
- Q&A Form
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLTzZ6S91QYm3REfD7Lo6AVJ55dRLaTgsM7mZxx_Dc1pBSRg/viewform
- Community Google Doc (Homeless Services Continuities)
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SSLjrNBi7TWvpisfZ5PNIXUjQU_5A9ecoxvmH9DHycM/edit