COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Meeting Recording:

Topic: COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers (April 8-June 30 invite)
Date: Apr 15, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)
### Meeting Agenda

**Austin/Travis County**

**COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers**  
**April 15th Agenda**

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<td>Wrap Up – Next Call: Friday, April 17th @ 9:00am</td>
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### Meeting Notes:

**COA/ APH – Vella Karman**

- [http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19](http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19)

- 900 COVID-19 cases in Travis County. 14 deaths and 158 people recovered
  - At least 22 individuals experiencing homelessness, including 2 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
- All residents at The Salvation Army downtown shelter were transferred to isolation/quarantine (Iso-fac) and protective lodging (Pro-lodge)
  - Shelter is undergoing a deep cleaning
- New order from Austin/Travis County Health Authority stating **everyone must wear a fabric mask when outside the home or in public**
  - Physical distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals in still in affect
- Pro-Lodge 2 is open
  - Has a capacity for 60 people
- Integral Care is providing mental health services to Iso-Fac and Pro-Lodges 1 and 2
- Austin City Council approved allocating $15 million from their emergency reserve fund, RISE (Relief in a State of Emergency)
Funding will go towards improving food access, case management, and assistance with rent/mortgage, utilities, and medical and childcare expenses.


More details to come later

Food access for people experiencing homelessness

- 714 bags of shelf-stable food have been distributed in the downtown core and to encampments, along with water and pet food
- Central Texas Food Bank will deliver another shipment of shelf-stable food expected Thursday (4/16/20)
- Prepared meal delivery is postponed temporarily as they work through distribution details

Communications

- Revisions to austintexas.com/homelessness went live on Monday night
- Working with Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and food access taskforce to release a food access press release on Thursday (4/16/18)

DACC

- Continues to offer walk in case management triage services, 8am – 5pm Monday – Friday
- Served 372 individuals, approx. 17 people a day
- Downtown First Methodist Church will continue donating snack bags for DACC clients
- Agencies can request feedback from the Austin Homelessness Advisory Council (AHAC) at upcoming meetings (4/27/20 and 5/11/20)
  - Contact Laura Williamson, laura.williamson2@austintexas.gov 512-293-7210
  - L Williams will help draft surveys which consist of 8-10 open-ended questions
  - 2-week turnaround time to receive feedback

Motel Conversion Strategy

- Planning to deliver 3-4 hotels with a variety of housing models
- COA released a Housing First request for qualifications statement (RFQS)
  - Looking to establish partnerships with one or more qualified nonprofits or governmental agencies to provide property management, operations, and supportive services at one or more city-owned properties
  - Responses due on May 14 by 2pm
  - Information available here: https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=134322

ECHO – Matt Mollica

- ECHO is working with the City and other agencies to prepare data dashboards with information on the isolation/quarantine facilities and protective lodges as well as more general info on our community’s COVID-19 response. Will present to this group when ready
- Working with City of Austin and consultants to develop plans for when people begin leaving the Iso-Fac and Pro-Lodge facilities
  - Looking into new housing opportunities made available by federal stimulus dollars as well as some local money
  - Plan will show how much money might be allocated to different programs and to provide a better understanding on how people will be prioritized for those resources
Agency Updates

- The Salvation Army
  - Downtown shelter has been cleaned. Expecting to bring staff back tomorrow and clients will come back some time later

Chat Box

From larafo to Everyone: 09:08 AM
Stay Home - Work Safe Order:
City’s Relief in a State of Emergency (RISE) Fund to support COVID-19 emergency relief for Austin residents:
Contact Laura via email (Laura.Williamson2@austintexas.gov) or cell (512-293-7210)

From Cate Graziani to Everyone: 09:08 AM
what is the best way to request hand washing stations or food delivery for an encampment?

From larafo to Everyone: 09:09 AM
The City issued a “Housing First” Request for Qualification Statements (RFQS) solicitation. Learn more here:
https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid =134322

From Dylan Shubitz to Everyone: 09:13 AM
I wish to renew the questions I posted here on Monday regarding the $15m allocation from council with the hope that city staff will address them directly

From Matthew Mollica to Everyone: 09:13 AM
matthewmollica@austinecho.org