COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Wednesday May 13, 2020 9:00 AM

Meeting Recording:

Topic: COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers (April 8-June 30 invite)
Date: May 13, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/2v1SMeHa7DNLXqfp0kfzdLURBri_T6a805kZ_PdfsUzV0dkUBWfjv2b
3Hlf08J_L

Password: 3x*.0fS9
Meeting Agenda

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers
May 13th Agenda

- City of Austin / Austin Public Health
- ECHO Updates
- Agency Updates
- Wrap Up – Next Call: Wednesday, May 15th @ 9:00am

Meeting Notes:

COA – Vela Carmen

- 2235 confirmed COVID-29 cases in Travis County; 760 recovered; and 71 deaths
- Demographic information on cases available at http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19
  - At least 43 individuals experiencing homelessness have tested positive, including 24 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 listing your symptoms
• Order from Austin/Travis County Health Authority stating **masks when outside the home or in public are recommended**
  o Physical distancing of at least 6 feet between individuals in still recommended
• Quarantine and Alternate Facilities:
  o ProLodges 1-3 are operational and at full capacity,
  o Considering options for a 4th ProLodge
  o Integral Care behavioral health teams are providing services at IsoFac and ProLodge 1, 2, and 3
  o Starting this week Front Steps staff are providing on site case management at all 3 ProLedges
  o If other programs have capacity to work with people staying at ProLodge sites, please contact Vella Karmen, vella.karmen@austintexas.gov
• The Central Texas Food Bank is utilizing City of Austin RAISE funds to provide 4 additional weeks of shelf stable meal bags
  o These remaining shipments will occur through June 11th
• Food access for people experiencing homelessness; Eating Apart Together (EAT)
  o Continuing to investigate food access needs for those experiencing homelessness
    ▪ To determine the scope and length of need as a response to COVID19
  o 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
    ▪ When food is distributed in the community
    ▪ Or send information to Michelle.miles@austintexas.gov
  o If you want to participate in any aspect of Eating Apart Together Initiative Zach Shlachter at zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov
• Communication Updates
  o Basic Needs Street signs are being installed at 14 basic needs cites today
    ▪ These basic needs sites have a combination of at least 3 services
      • Hand washing stations, port-a-potties, showers, and/or food delivery
    ▪ The basic needs signs have information with infographics on how to the spread of COVID19
      • Directs people to austintexas.gov/homelessness for more information
• Hygiene Update
  o 3 shower trailers will be operational and running later this week
    ▪ Crews experienced delays due to yesterday’s weather
  o 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
- This week May 11th-12th 32 people served through triage case management
- And since March 16th they have served 792 individuals, an average of 19 individuals a day
  - Individuals accessing basic hygiene resources are not factored into this number, or
  - Client’s case managers reach remotely
- City Council
  - Last week 18 million dollars was approved to support:
    - COVID19 emergency relief for revolving loan programs and
    - Grants for businesses, child care support, health and human services assistance, work force development, social services, legal services, education, arts and culture, environment and animal protection, and declaring an emergency
- City of Austin
  - Housing First Request for Qualifications Statements (RFQF) Solicitation
    - To establish a contract with one or more qualified nonprofit or governmental agencies to provide operations management and support services for converted motels
    - RFQS Due tomorrow May 14th by 2 PM to Central Purchasing
- Austin Public Health
  - Include awareness material and messaging about 2020 Census
    - Through the COVID19 response and ongoing Austin Public Health community services

**ECHO Updates:**
- Matt Mollica
  - National legislation updates on funding for those who experience homelessness
    - House Democrats put forward the Hero’s Act stimulus package yesterday
      - Could be voted on as early as Friday but this will not likely be the final iteration of the bill
      - Will fall along party lines; a partisan vote
    - Reach out to your senators and house representative to voice your support
      - ECHO will be putting together information on how to reach out to your senators and house representatives; will provide to our partners
      - Any advocacy on the state or federal level will be very important
    - The bill includes
      - $4 billion tenant based rental assistance
- $1 billion for new temporary vouchers for people and families who are experiencing homelessness or at risk or escaping domestic violence
- Income level restrictions for these subsidies are current income, therefore could be meant to address the economic impact people are facing around job loss and unemployment right now
- Homelessness Assistance Grants specifically ESG funds $11.5 billion
  - To address the impacts of those experiencing homelessness or at risk
  - To support additions homeless prevention and diversion activities to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic
  - Can be used for hazard pay
  - There is a provision prohibiting pre conditions before people can be helped
- Our community is set to receive $1 billion out of the $4 billion in ESG funds that was dedicated from the first stimulus bill the Cares Act
  - Our community will receive $3-4 million in new money
  - With another $3 billion for ESG with the potential for even more funds for our community
- Emergency Rental Assistance Fund that’s trying to be established
  - $100 billion in funds for emergency assistance to help low income renters at risk of homelessness avoid eviction due to the economic impact of COVID19
    - Getting these funds would be important to our community
- Prevention dollars as well
  - We know it’s important for our community
- The bill also has language that would cancel the 2020 NOFA competition
- We will update as it goes through legislature
- COVID Coordination meetings this week
  - Providing updates on all the different implementation groups this Friday
    - Emergency Shelter Task Group today Wednesday at 11 AM
    - Street Outreach Coordination today Wednesday at 2:30 PM
    - Permanent Housing Programs Meeting Thursday at 10 AM
    - Health Care Meeting and Criminal Justice Response this week at 10:30 AM
      - Email Andrewwillard@austinecho.org for more information if needed
- Next meeting will be this coming Friday

Agency Updates
- None
Chat Box

From Laura Evanoff to Everyone: 09:00 AM
Good morning! We would love to hear about any agency updates, report-outs, success stories and/or lessons learned. Feel free to type in the chat box or talk during the agency updates section of the agenda.

Link to HEROES: https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/6888648/House-Coronavirus-Relief-Bill-May-12.pdf

From Preston Petty to Everyone: 09:14 AM
Thanks Andrew!