

# COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Wednesday May 20, 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 <lsovine@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@NETORGF2096939.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: May 20, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tc1\\_ip7X30ZOHZXAuEyGRq1-HIXjX6a813UX-  
vdZyRnE8G7eil1uPI9SbZNCsqMh](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tc1_ip7X30ZOHZXAuEyGRq1-HIXjX6a813UX-<br/>vdZyRnE8G7eil1uPI9SbZNCsqMh)

Password: 8g#V^8I3

# Meeting Agenda

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers  
May 20<sup>th</sup> Agenda



City of Austin / Austin Public Health



Agency Updates



Wrap Up – Next Call: Friday, May 22nd @ 9:00am

## Meeting Notes:

COA – Laura Foss

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

- 2595 confirmed COVID-29 cases in Travis County; 915 recovered; and 81 deaths
- Demographic information on cases available at <http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>
  - At least 46 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 free 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
- Austin Public Health published a Color-Coded Chart

- To help residents understand the stages of risk during pandemic, and
- To provide recommendations on what people should do to stay safe
- New Risk based guidelines
  - 5 distinct stages of risk
    - 1=Lowest threat stage to
    - 5=Most serious threat stage
  - With recommended behaviors for each stage of risk
  - Access it here <https://austintexas.gov/news/new-risk-based-guidelines-help-community-stay-safe-during-covid-19-pandemic>
- Order from 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
    - 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](mailto: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](mailto:vella.karmen@austintexas.gov)
- Eating Apart Together (EAT); Food access for people experiencing homelessness
  - Central Texas Food Bank utilizing City of Austin RAISE funds to provide 4 additional weeks of shelf stable meal bags
    - These remaining shipments are May 21<sup>st</sup>, May 28<sup>th</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup>, and June 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Continuing to investigate food access needs for those experiencing homelessness
    - To determine the scope and length of need as a response to COVID19
  - Austin Resource Recover
    - Increased trash picking to every day at Violet bag location to accommodate trash needs associated with EAT initiative
  - 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](mailto:Michelle.miles@austintexas.gov)
  - If you want to participate in any aspect of Eating Apart Together Initiative Zach Shlachter at [zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov](mailto:zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov)
- 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 COVID-19 and safety planning

- May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> they received 45 individuals
- And since March 16<sup>th</sup> they have served 901 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
- On Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> DACC obtained 24 food kits from the Austin Convention Center
  - To provide to the housed case managed clients
- City of Austin's Homeless COVID19 Support Strategy-Housing First Request for Qualifications Statements (RFQS) Solicitation
  - Extended for 2 weeks
    - To establish a contract with one or more qualified nonprofit or governmental agencies to provide operation management and support services for converted motels
    - Will close on May 28<sup>th</sup> by 2 PM to Central Purchasing
    - More information on the solicitation and how to apply can be found here [https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account\\_services/solicitation/solicitation\\_details.cfm?sid=134322](https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=134322)
- COVID19 Response Funding Implementation Team
  - Been charged with developing a plan on how best to align the various funding sources for COVID19 response
  - Looking for feedback from local homelessness service providers
    - 11 question survey
    - Should take less then 20 minutes to complete
    - To access follow this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8JTWHJM>
      - Please forward the link to help spread the word to other local service providers who may want to be involved
- Travis County Update
  - Seeking applications from Agencies for the use of Travis County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
    - Approximately \$700,000 to respond to COVID19 in Travis County
    - Application can be accessed here <https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/health-human-services/cdbg>

## Agency Updates

### Chris-The Other One's Foundation

- Day Shelter in Oak Hill is closing permanently tomorrow
- Mobil Hygiene Clinic-Shower Trailer
  - 7<sup>th</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup>
  - 2 more shower units going online tomorrow
    - Tony Burger Center
    - Marry Moore Searight Park
  - Mobil Unit will continue to operate as usual

- Next week it will become more static
- Will update on schedule when available

## Latreese Cooke Executive Director-Mell's Center

- Introduction
  - Can be reached at [latreese.cooke@melj.org](mailto:latreese.cooke@melj.org)-[www.melj.org](http://www.melj.org)
- Mell's Center:
  - Works with and is a resource provider for those who were previously incarcerated and their families
  - <https://www.melj.org/>

## ECHO Updates:

- This Week's Meeting Schedule:
  - Implementation teams share out Friday with;
    - Decisions, updates, and discussions taking place
- 2020 PIT Count Numbers Released
  - PIT numbers: <https://www.austinecho.org/leading-system-change/data-and-reports/#pit-count-results>

## Chat Box

### **From Andrew Willard to Everyone: 09:04 AM**

If you have any questions, agency updates, or comments, please feel free to drop them into the chat box!

### **From Iara Foss to Everyone: 09:09 AM**

Good morning all!

We will put a link in the chat box

<https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/health-human-services/cdbg>

Whoops!

Having cut and paste issues...

### **From Latreese Cooke to Everyone: 09:11 AM**

[latreese.cooke@melj.org](mailto:latreese.cooke@melj.org)-[www.melj.org](http://www.melj.org)

### **From Andrew Willard to Everyone: 09:12 AM**

PIT numbers: <https://www.austinecho.org/leading-system-change/data-and-reports/#pit-count-results>

### **From Iara Foss (via a file upload) to Everyone: 09:13 AM**

For demographic breakdowns and more information, you can visit the

<http://austintexas.gov/covid19> web site

Risk based guidelines

<http://austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/2020-05/Risk%20Based%20Guidelines%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

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

If any programs have capacity to serve clients at these Pro-lodge sites, please contact Vella Karman at [Vella.Karman@austintexas.gov](mailto: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](mailto:michelle.myles@austintexas.gov)

If you are interested in participating in any aspect of Eating Apart Together please contact Zach Shlachter ([zach.shlachter@austintexas.gov](mailto:zach.shlachter@austintexas.gov)).

More information about the RFQS solicitation and how to apply can be found at the following link:

[https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account\\_services/solicitation/solicitation\\_details.cfm?sid=134322](https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=134322)

Response Funding Implementation Team Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8JTWHJM>

Travis County application

<https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/health-human-services/cdbg>