COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Wednesday May 20, 2020 9:00 AM

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-vdZyRnE8G7eil1uPl9SbZNCsQmH

Password: 8g#V^8l3
Meeting Agenda

Austin/Travis County

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

City of Austin / Austin Public Health

Agency Updates

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

Meeting Notes:

COA – Laura Foss

- 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

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 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
  o If other 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
  o 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 21st, May 28th, June 4th, and June 11th
  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 Austin Resource Recover
    ▪ Increased trash picking to every day at Violet bag location to accommodate trash needs associated with EAT initiative
  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
      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

Downtown Austin Community Court Update (DACC)
  o 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 18th and 19th they received 45 individuals
- And since March 16th 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 15th 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 28th 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

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.traviscountytx.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
  - 7th and 35th
  - 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
    o Can be reached at latreese.cooke@melj.org-www.melj.org
  • Mell’s Center:
    o Works with and is a resource provider for those who were previously incarcerated and their families
    o https://www.melj.org/

ECHO Updates:
  • This Week’s Meeting Schedule:
    o Implementation teams share out Friday with;
      ▪ Decisions, updates, and discussions taking place
  • 2020 PIT Count Numbers Released
    o 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 larafoss to Everyone: 09:09 AM
Good morning all!
We will put a link in the chat box
https://www.traviscountytx.gov/health-human-services/cdbg
Whoops!
Having cut and paste issues...

From Latreese Cooke to Everyone: 09:11 AM
latreese.cooke@melj.org-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 larafoss (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

If any agency is interested in learning more about the Pro-lodge operations and services please contact Robert at 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

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 Eating Apart Together please contact Zach Shlachter (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

Response Funding Implementation Team Survey
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8JTWHJM

Travis County application
https://www.traviscountytx.gov/health-human-services/cdbg