COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Wednesday May 27, 2020 9:00 AM

Meeting Recording:

Topic: COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers (April 8-June 30 invite)

Date: May 27, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/tM4kJpys6GVLrOXR10kPlcfEwA6X6T6a8gXcc8vVbyUxt24Uo

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Meeting Agenda

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers
May 27th Agenda

City of Austin / Austin Public Health

Agency Updates

Wrap Up – Next Call: Friday, May 29nd @ 9:00am

Meeting Notes:

COA – Laura Foss

• 2984 confirmed COVID-29 cases in Travis County; 1040 recovered; and 88 deaths
• Demographic information on cases available at http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19
  o 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.
  o Austin Public Health launched an online enrollment form for free 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
  o To help residents understand the stages of risk during pandemic, and
  o To provide recommendations on what people should do to stay safe
  o New Risk based guidelines
• 5 distinct stages of risk
  • 1=Lowest threat stage to
  • 5=Most serious threat stage
  o 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 3 additional weeks of shelf stable meal bags
    ▪ Austin received it’s first shipment May 21\(^{st}\)
    ▪ The remaining shipments are May 28\(^{th}\), June 4\(^{th}\), and June 11\(^{th}\)
    ▪ The agreement will allow the EAT initiative to increase the amount of shelf stable food bags going out to people experiencing homelessness
    ▪ And some of those meals will go to those who are recently housed
  o The Convention Center and Parks and Recreation staff
    ▪ Producing 1,000 shelf stable bags of food designated for individuals living in encampments outside of the downtown core
    ▪ Producing 1,000 shelf stable bags for those living unsheltered around the downtown core and individuals recently housed and enrolled in housing case management
  o EAT Initiative will 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](mailto: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](mailto:zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov)
• Communications
  o Homeless Communications Team’s working on a project to text those experiencing homelessness notifications;
    • About COVID19,
    • How to stay safe,
    • How to access services, and
    • How to meet needs
      ▪ There are parameters on messaging and the frequency of messaging but
      ▪ Group text is available to those experiencing homelessness
      ▪ If your agency has provided phones that have texting plans (does not have to be Smart Phones) and are interesting in participating in this program email laura.foss@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
  o And since March 16th they have served 999 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
  o 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
  o 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 at 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

Agency Updates
None

Chat Box
Andrew Willard 07:41
  Good Morning Everyone! We'll be starting in 3 min. Please feel free to drop comments, updates, and questions into the chat!