

COVID19 Updates & Reports-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Friday, May 8, 2020 9:00 AM

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Meeting Recording:

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/yPcrK-w1zJJHI398EWGd4d5G97Meaa81Sld_aZZyB0D3v_Jtia2DDYWKRk8Gpi

Password: 3W@%#=#^9

Meeting Agenda

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers
May 8th Agenda



City of Austin / Austin Public Health



Implementation Team Updates



Agency Updates



Wrap Up – Next Call: Monday, May 11th @ 9:00am

Meeting Notes:

COA– Laura Foss

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

- 2002 confirmed COVID-19; 650 recovered; and 59 deaths
- Demographic information on cases available at <http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>
 - At least 40 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
- 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:

- ProLodges 1-3 are operational, and at full capacity,
- Considering options for a 4th ProLodge
- Integral Care behavioral health teams are providing services at IsoFac and ProLodge 1, 2, and 3
- Front Steps staff are working on providing case management services at multiple ProLodges
- If other programs have capacity to work with people staying at ProLodge sites, please contact Vella Karmen, vella.karmen@austintexas.gov
- Food access for people experiencing homelessness; Eating Apart Together (EAT)
 - The 5th shipments from the Central Texas Food Bank of shelf stable food arrived **Thursday May 7th**
 - Exploring more efforts/sources for shelf-stable food so distribution can continue beyond the 6 weeks
 - Shelf-stable meal bags, prepared meals, water, and hygiene items are still being distributed throughout Austin by The City of Austin Travis County Community Partners to those who are experiencing homelessness
 - If you want to participate in any aspect of Eating Apart Together Initiative Zach Shlachter at zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov
 - Please include information regarding trash pick up needs for encampments on the EAT Initiative survey
 - Or send information to Michelle.Myles@austintexas.gov
 - EAT Initiative looking into providing and increasing trash services
- Communications
 - Virtual news conference today on Austin/Travis County stay-at-home orders
 - media.swagit.com/austintx/atxn
- Hygiene Update
 - 3 new shower trailers will be operational soon
 - Finalizing location placements
 - Contracting with Family Elder Care and The Other Ones Foundation to operate at different locations in Austin
- Downtown 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
 - 91 people served this week through triage case management
 - And since March 16th they 725 individuals were served, an average of 18 individuals a day
- City Council approved \$18 million to support COVID-19 emergency relief
 - Includes money for revolving loan programs, grants for business, childcare support, health and human services assistance, workforce development, social services, legal services, education, arts and culture, and environment and animal protection

Implementation Team Updates

- Friday update calls will be used to provide more specific updates on the work of each group
- Implementation Team objectives
 - Objective #1: Deploying comprehensive screening processes for sheltered and unsheltered people – first through a “soft launch trial” and then scaled up
 - Objective #2: Securing and operating sites/rooms to provide alternative living arrangements for people experiencing homelessness (noting that similar arrangements need to be made for other high-priority populations within COVID-19 response)
 - Objective #3: Implement purposeful, coordinated, and efficient approaches to supporting people to transition and exit from the alternative living arrangements established
 - Objective #4: Ensuring appropriate social distancing, safety, and hygiene protocols are in place at existing emergency shelters
 - Objective #5: Addressing the needs of people who are unsheltered, including people living in encampments
- Project Management Team
 - Membership: City Manager’s Office, Austin Public Health, Homeless Strategies Office, Downtown Austin Community Court, and Ending Community Homelessness Coalition
 - Priorities: Embedding focus on racial equity and engaging people with lived expertise of homelessness into efforts.
- Hotel/Motel Implementation Team
 - Membership: Austin Public Health, Homeless Strategies Office, Downtown Austin Community Court, Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Integral Care, and Front Steps
 - Priorities: Estimating needs and exit pathways for current ProLodge residents to help ensure no one is discharged into unsheltered homelessness
- Emergency Shelter and Unsheltered Implementation Team
 - Membership: Austin Public Health, Homeless Strategies Office, Downtown Austin Community Court, Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Integral Care, and Front Steps
 - Priorities: Assessing and strengthening implementation of safety protocols within emergency shelter settings and determining maximum capacity for safe operations.
- Funding Strategies
 - Membership: Austin Public Health, Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Homeless Strategies Office, Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, and people with lived expertise of homelessness
 - Priorities: Estimating costs for crisis response and rehousing activities of Response Plan and analyzing new federal funding sources for potential uses
- Rehousing Strategies Implementation Team

- Membership: Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, Austin Public Health, Homeless Strategies Office, Downtown Austin Community Court, Housing Authority City of Austin, Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Caritas, Front Steps, and LifeWorks
- Priorities: Gathering data from other teams to inform projections for housing interventions needed and developing rehousing options.

Agency Updates:

- No updates

Chat Box

From IaraFoss to Everyone: 09:10 AM

Happy Friday everyone!

For demographic breakdowns and more information, you can visit the <http://austintexas.gov/covid19> web site

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).

At 10:30 a.m. today there will be a Virtual News Conference on Austin-Travis County Stay Home-Work Safe Orders

You can access the video feed here:

Livestream feed ATXN 1: media.swagit.com/austintx/atxn1/

Livestream feed ATXN 2 (no graphics): media.swagit.com/austintx/atxn2/

Facebook: facebook.com/austintexasgov