

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers

Friday June 5, 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 <Isovine@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@NETORGFT2096939.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: June 5, 2020 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/751kcr09G5ISdbizGeDcYcQLq3VX6a81HVIqKUFxBvFNZK9LQ-CCJLp3uXJNqvU>

Password: 4t*.!5UK

Meeting Agenda

Austin/Travis County

COVID19 Updates & Report-outs w/ Homeless Service Providers
June 5th Agenda



City of Austin / Austin Public Health



Implementation Team Updates



Agency Updates



Wrap Up – Next Call: Wednesday, June 10th @ 9:00am

Meeting Notes:

COA – Laura Foss

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

- 3562 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Travis County; 2917 recovered; and 95 deaths
- Demographic information on cases available at <http://www.austintexas.gov/covid19>
 - At least 48 individuals experiencing homelessness have tested positive, including 26 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.
- City has extended stay at home orders till **June 15th** to be in line with Travis County
- 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
 - 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
 - One remaining shipment of shelf stable meals from Central Texas Food Bank utilizing City of Austin RAISE
 - The remaining shipment is June 11th
 - June 11th delivery will allow for food distribution through June 18th
 - City's contract with Revolution Food for prepared meals will end June 21st
 - EAT Initiative will continue to investigate food access needs for those experiencing homelessness
 - To determine the scope and length of need as a response to COVID19
 - Hope to provide a clearer timeframe soon on continuation of services
 - 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
 - If you want to participate in any aspect of Eating Apart Together Initiative Zach Shlachter at zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov
 - Communications Updates
 - City of Austin is launching a new hub for opportunities to help during COVID19
 - Incredible work is taking place to meet the needs created by the pandemic
 - Therefore, we want that information to go out to people who can help
 - How to Help Hub
 - List of COVID19 related opportunities to donate to or volunteer with local nonprofits, faith based and government programs that need community support to succeed
 - Will be promoted by City leaders, elected officials, press releases, social media, email marketing, and more
 - To drive community wide participation
 - The initiative starts by "you guys" creating opportunities to engage the public
 - You can access the website here <http://austintexas.gov/department/covid-19-how-help-austin>
 - Joint Information System is working on messaging to align with the Governor's new orders
 - Messaging will come out next week

- Eating Together campaign will have distributed 100,000 meals as of today
 - Release will be next week
 - Will talk about the scale of the initiative and all the partnerships that it took to make it happen
- Saturday June 13th at 10 AM the City of Austin and Austin-Travis County will host a Town Hall
 - Discussing ways to improve access to health care, health outcomes, and provide support to our communities of color during COVID19 and beyond
 - For information go to AustinTexas.gov/COVID19
 - More details next week
- Downtown Austin Community Court Update (DACC)
 - Continue to offer walk-in triage case management services 8am-5pm Monday through Friday
 - Added a 2nd triage staff member due to the volume of individuals experiencing homelessness requesting assistance
 - Triage case manager provides flyers to all clients with information on COVID19 and safety planning
 - June 3rd and 4th 56 individuals were served through triage
 - And since March 16th they have served 1,219 individuals, an average of over 19 individuals a day
 - Individuals accessing basic hygiene resources or client's case managers reach remotely are not factored into this number
 - They continue to provide food kits from the Austin Convention Center to housed case-managed clients and Food and hygiene kits from First United Methodist Church
 - DACA assembled cleaning and hygiene packs to provide to their housed clients
 - Supplies to assist with maintaining a clean environment during COVID19. They include;
 - Toilet paper, tissues, body soap, laundry soap, dryer sheets, bottle of disinfectant cleaner, toothpaste, dish soap, and cleaning clothes
- Homelessness COVID19 Support Strategy
 - Council approved item 40 yesterday
 - Spending framework for the use of all available federal and local funding for COVID19 relief

ECHO Updates:

- The Approved Implementation Structure
 - Project Management Team spearheading efforts with the joint collaboration between city and ECHO leadership
 - Underneath there is
 - Hotel/Motel Implementation Team
 - Emergency Shelter and Unsheltered Implementation Team

- Funding Strategies Implementation Team
 - Rehousing Strategies Implementation Team
 - Each is connected to some of the different objectives of the overall plan
- Emergency Shelter and Unsheltered Implementation Team
 - Discussion Items
 - Continuing to address the need for additional testing specifically for congregate settings and our shelters
 - Continuing to gather shelter resource needs and nightly bed utilization numbers
 - If Christa from ECHO's housing for health team has been reaching out to shelters to gather this information please keep checking in with her
 - So we can send up those needs to the Project Management Team
 - Prolodges are full however the waitlist is open, we continue to triage and staff clients for priority as units turn over and capacity becomes available
 - There could be some units available Monday
 - Next Steps
 - In addition to the CDC shelter project Christa has been reaching out about she also sent out a draft on CDC guidance that was developed for our CoC
 - We just want to make sure it works for our community and
 - That we are meeting the asks that were given to us
 - If you have any feedback please let us know
 - We hope to have the final document next week
- Hotel/Motel Implementation Team
 - Discussion Items
 - Front Steps, Integral Care, and DACA distributed over 200 surveys to people at the Prolodges
 - We got over 40 back so a small number so far but we are hoping to gather more
 - Overall feedback was positive
 - Gap that needs to be filled around people being unclear about what was next steps past the Prolodges
 - We as a team are working together to create a strategy to better communicate what's on the horizon for people in the Prolodges
 - Thank you to Front Steps, Integral Care, and DACA for the efforts to get the surveys out and to get the feedback as it is important and informative to ongoing decision making
 - Proposed plan for Prolodges to operate through the end of December
 - Not a confirmed plan but it's on the table
 - Decisions
 - Participant agreement was approved Tuesday

- So all people who go to the Prolodges will be signing an agreement
 - Is being reviewed with the Prolodge guest next week or maybe late this week
 - Next Steps
 - Working through approval on discharge planning for low risk Prolodge guests
 - In the process of creating a staffing plan for sustained operations and services with Michele Miles from Austin Public Health taking the lead
 - Establishing a grievance process for Prolodge guests
 - And being able to have a trauma informed plan for transitioning the Prolodges after their time is up and the COVID crisis is over
- Funding Strategies Implementation Team
 - Discussion Items
 - A lot of work around the creation, drafting, and revision of a joint request for applications with ECHO and the City of Austin
 - ECHO would be the entity to make referrals to TDHCA for their CARES Act funding
 - Have been looking at the deliverables this team has to the Project Management Team for the next two months
 - Trying to build a structure so this kind of funding collaborative to distribute resources can continue in our system so all of our resources can be as aligned as possible
 - The consultants have provided system modeling for our current system and
 - Suggestions for future resource alignment on the front end on how we are funding projects and for performance monitoring and outcomes
 - One point they have mentioned is that our system is severely under-resourced
 - So we need to make sure the resources we do have allocated are as impactful and aligned as possible
 - Decisions
 - We have reviewed and finalized the Request For Applications (RFA) timeline
 - With the scope of work and the application to be released next week
 - Next Steps
 - Finalize communication for RFA
 - For the Funding Implementation Team and the Project Management Team to review and approve the RFA scope of work and application drafts
- Rehousing Strategies Implementation Team
 - Discussions

- Approved the designs for Diversion, Homelessness Prevention, and Rapid Rehousing to be included in the RFA on the local guidance for the suggested structure of these projects
 - Will be taken into consideration in the communication of guidance for some applicants as they build their projects and
 - How they inform the evaluation team on how they evaluate projects that are eventually submitted for consideration
- Next Steps
 - Finalize program design for Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Discussing the prioritization and targeting of these new programs that will be coming on line
- Project Management Team
 - Recent Discussion Items
 - Trying to work the transition and implementation teams to be not just about the COVID19 response but also about the homeless response
 - How this implementation, project management, and overall response structure could be transitioned in the future to be more about the homeless response and not just about a response to COVID19 for those experiencing homelessness
 - Reviewed the survey results conducted with AHAC
 - That had a lot of really good feedback
 - Thank you, Axton Nichols, from ECHO for synthesizing the information and providing a document that was easily digestible
 - Discussed upcoming HUD TA opportunities that are out in the community
 - If you have questions about what those opportunities are get in contact in the chat so we can provide more clarity
 - Decisions
 - Approved template for Implementation Team to track deliverables, decision points, and timeframes for the work through July 30th
 - Next Steps
 - Set a deadline for COB today for the Implementation Teams to complete their templates
 - What their project plan's deliverables are, decision points are, and what their timeframes for getting all that work done through the end of July is
 - Next week we will focus on synthesizing all four Implementation Team templates
 - Looking at the broader strategy and making sure there is alignment
 - Making sure certain teams' wont holdup the work of other teams so we can work on getting those who are experiencing homelessness

- We will continue to help get the voices of those with lived expertise included in the implementation phases of the work
 - We are doing this by surveying
 - It's been hard to engage in other ways
 - We are working with AHAC, AYC, and ProLodge residents around how to engage their voices beyond surveying
- Continue to focus on racial equity and using that lenses in the response and prioritization and just understanding its impact on our overall system

Agency Updates

Amber Fogarty-Mobil Loaves and Fishes

- Working on Phase 2 of Community First Village and the building of 300 more homes
 - Power went on
 - Move ins begin next month for Phase 2

Jennifer Long-Casa Marianella

- All Shelters are open
- About 120 people in shelter and no one has gotten COVID19
 - People have been tested but they have been negative
- In May 80 people who had lost their jobs had their rent paid
 - That number has gone down for the month of June (maybe about 50 or 60)
 - People seem to be getting back to work which is very exciting

Chat Box:

From MLF Host to Everyone: 10:02 AM

What was the # of people experiencing homelessness with COVID-19? My audio cut out.

From Palom Arroyo-Lefebvre to Everyone: 10:03 AM

48 I believe

From Iara Foss to Everyone: 10:10 AM

Yes, 48 is correct - to the best of our knowledge.

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

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 the Eating Apart Together Initiative please contact Zack Shlachter (zack.shlachter@austintexas.gov).

How to Help Campaign

<http://austintexas.gov/department/covid-19-how-help-austin>

From dxcaDarilynn Cardona-Beiler to Everyone: 10:22 AM

Wonderful news Amber!!!

From MLF Host to Everyone: 10:23 AM

Jennifer - thanks for the amazing work you all do!

From Jennifer Long to Everyone: 10:23 AM

Thank you!

From MLF Host to Everyone: 10:23 AM

Casa Marianella is such a gift to our community!

From Matthew Mollica to Everyone: 10:23 AM

Both great updates Amber and Jennifer

From DXGOMEZ to Everyone: 10:23 AM

Anyone from TOOF on to talk about their contract for Camp RATT?