

FORT BEND RECOVERS

COVID-19 Weekly Meeting 05/12/20

Participants

1. Delena Pinkney – United Way
2. Mary Vazquez – United Way
3. Terri Stuart – United Way
4. Caroline Egan – FB OEM
5. Nadar Afshari – Endeavors
6. Mike Youngblood – City of Richmond
7. Vince Mannio – Agri Life Extension
8. Halley Goldstein – United Way
9. Melinda Garcia – United Way
10. Palak Jalan – Access Health
11. Alvaro Hernandez - Endeavors
12. Shaunna Harris – United Way
13. Eun Breuer – East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry
14. Calvin Obey - Endeavors
15. Dominique Purvis - Endeavors
16. Mike Martin – Habitat for Humanity
17. Deysi Crespo – Katy Christian Ministries
18. Elise Kaufman – Friends of North Richmond
19. Jacqueline Washington - Endeavors
20. Quynh-Anh McMahan – The George Foundation
21. Lori Marcus – Texana Center
22. Roy Hayley – Attack Poverty
23. Pennie DeGroot – St. Laurence Catholic Church
24. Sue Levin – HGI Counseling
25. Penny Meek – The Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation
26. Dylan McNally – Harvey Home Connect
27. Natalie Cortes – Attack Poverty
28. Tom Pretti – Katy Responds
29. Mia White – Houston Tool Bank
30. Annie Derry – Endeavors
31. Ron Peters – Katy Response
32. Chelsea Lucas – Katy Responds
33. Anna Gonzales – Fort Bend Health and Human Services
34. Vickie Bernal – Katy Christian Ministries
35. Jimmy Fenwick – Sugar Land Methodist Church
36. Brandon Baca – Attack Poverty
37. Andrew Van Chau – Brazos River Rotary
38. Diana Turner – Access Health

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39. Rashmi Singh – Sewa International
40. Herman Rogers – Endeavors
41. Amy Harkins Ph.D. – Easter Seals of Greater Houston
42. Lucretia Jelks – On the Road Lending
43. Spencer Walker – Mental Health America
44. Clif Cummings – Fort Bend County Chaplains Association
45. Michelle Gonzalez – SVDP
46. Renee Teel – Christ Church Sugar Land
47. Jagruti Sarkar - Sewa International
48. Sarah White – Second Mile
49. Anthony Pryor – City of Richmond
50. Julie Gaston – The Henderson Wessendorff Foundation
51. Stacy Christ – Harvey Home Connect
52. Tim Stroud – Easter Seals of Greater Houston
53. Naeem Raja – ICNA Relief
54. Qwentadria Ware – Endeavors
55. Renee Staley – The Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation

Updates

Mary Vazquez – United Way

Good morning and thank you all for joining us today. We are going to continue our call this week with some updates of what everyone is doing in response to COVID and share a resource. As many of you all are trying to understand what is happening in our community, we want to highlight a resource where you can get information on unemployment claims and job lost. Delena can you please share the resource with us?

Delena Pinkney – United Way

Good morning everyone. We have three websites/resources to share with you today that will help us paint a better picture of what is going on in the county. The first website is Urban.org which shows where low-income jobs are being lost due to COVID. The information can be filtered by county by inputting the data in the top box of the website. Individuals in Fort Bend County, as of May 8th have lost 18,170 jobs. The biggest sector of job losses is Accommodation and Food services, followed by retail trade and health care and social assistance. The link to the website is:

https://www.urban.org/features/where-low-income-jobs-are-being-lost-covid-19?utm_source=srwnews&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=low-income%20jobs

The next website is Texas Workforce Commission and they provide information on how many unemployment applications they have received. At the top of the page there are tabs that list information by county, zip codes, house districts and more. This allows you to look at information at different levels. If you look to the left, you can see the top 25 zip codes listed for the number of

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applications received. We are going to look at zip code 77469 for the city of Richmond as an example. After entering the data in the search box, a window pops up showing Richmond's populations, claimants broken down by gender, and the trending area of the claims by date. The link to the website is <https://texasmapsonline.com/portal/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=e3e490c4196a45868610f65b72e9f303>

Moving on to our next site, which many of you have seen before, the county's response hub. Here you can also look at information by zip codes. If you look at the map to the right, you can see Richmond's 77469 zip code outlined on the map with the number of confirmed cases. The website can't access here <https://covid-19-fort-bend-county-response-fbcgis.hub.arcgis.com/>

Looking at all three of these websites can help us understand what is going on in each county. By utilizing these websites, we can find out where jobs are being lost, the number of unemployment claims submitted as well as the confirmed covid-19 cases. I believe this to be an excellent resource. If you have any questions about these sites, feel free to reach out. I will be sharing them in the follow up email that will go out tomorrow.

Mary Vazquez – United Way

We want to continue to share resources with you all. I love this data because it allows us to focus in on Fort Bend County data only. I am hopeful that each of those will be a resource to you as well as, I know that many of you are writing grants for COVID assistance and funders are making data driven decisions. Hopefully this will be able to assist you.

Rashimi Singh – Sewa International

Sewa had our very first food drive near the West Chase district and at West Oak Mall. We were prepared to help about 250 families. We will host 5-6 more food drives in the coming months. This Saturday we will be hosting another drive at the same locations. I will provide the flyer to Delena to share with you all.

Hand sanitizer and PPE is still available. Please fill out the Google form if you need these materials and we will arrange a time to get them to you.

We are still hosting webinars for mental health, helping people deal with job loss. These services will be offered for the next 2-3 months.

Renee Teal – Christ Church of Sugar Land

East Fort Bend Human Ministry is still distributing food Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays from 10 am -12 pm. Fort Bend ISD is partnering with Houston Food Bank and doing a food distribution Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

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We are also continuing collection for the food pantry and FBISD on Wednesdays from 12 pm – 4pm. If anyone has toiletries or nonperishable items, we have a drive through collection bend that is open every Wednesday from 12 pm-4pm here at Christ Church of Sugar Land off Austin Parkway.

Chelsea – Katy Responds

Katy Responds is continuing the collection of masks from our church/business partners. We would love to have your organization partner with us in the Masks for All program with Houston Responds. For more information please check out www.houstonresponds.org/masksforall – you can see the types of masks we are asking to be made to follow the CDC guidelines.

We are still collecting food for KCM's food pantry through our church partners. There are a few drop off locations in the Fort Bend area - Lake Point Church, Fellowship Church and Kings and Baptist Church.

Deysi Crespo – Katy Christian Ministries

Our Crisis Center helps victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse and is operating 24 hours a day. While we are not visiting clients in the hospital, we are offering services via zoom or any other way of telecommunications. We have experienced an increase in cases for domestic violence. Counseling is still being provided to existing clients. Domestic Violence Hotline: 281-391-4357; 24/7. Sexual assault hotline number is: 281-693-7273.

KCM food pantries are serving on average about a 150 families per day, Monday-Thursday. We also have community food fairs the 2nd and last Saturday of the month at Our House Church.

Kudos to the social services teams, the Foundations, and individual giving that made financial assistance possible. In 8 weeks, we helped with over \$108,000 in financial assistance for rent, mortgage, and utilities. Our Giving Tuesday was specifically to raise money for client assistance because we know that the need is large through our county. We can never have enough for our clients.

Katy Response has come on board with KCM and helped us in many ways. They have been helping with keeping our food inventory up to par. We are very thankful for them.

Elise Kauffman – Friends of North Richmond

Friends of North Richmond, Friends of North Rosenberg, St. Laurence Catholic Church as well as Fort Bend Social Services is partnering together to provide hot meals for the homeless. We are currently working through the details. However, we did land on doing this the last Saturday of the month. Once we have more details, we will share them with the group.

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Diana Turner – Access Health

Access Health is open for all services. In the clinic we have implemented new safety measures, but we are open for physical and telehealth services. A big thank you to the George Foundation for additional funds that allowed us to buy equipment to offer teletherapy. I also want to thank the folks on this call who have donated PPE to our clinic staff.

Please let your clients know that we are open for all services, including dental.

Lori Marcus – Texana Center

The Behavioral and Spiritual Health workgroup is excited to share a new website we developed to share resources with the community. It is called a Padlet and it has information on connecting with self, creativity, essential workers, and faith and community. We have been filling the site with resources such as things to do, creative activities, and videos. The videos enable us to connect with the audience so that it is not just stuff on a site. The link to the website will be sent out by Delena. A QR code will also be circulated for access to the site. Please share it with your network.

Caroline Egan – Fort Bend Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Thank you Delena for sharing the Response Hub. As you may have noticed, the number of cases seem low after the weekend. It takes a little while to get the numbers updated after the weekend so you will see an increase later in the week.

If you look on Slack under the COVID-19 tab, you will find a few posts from me. The first is a flyer with testing site information. We are really trying to encourage the community to take advantage of the available testing so please share with your clients. I posted 2 charts; they do not show the bell curve that we keep talking about in regards to flattening the curve but they do show a daily change in case count as its reported. You can see a drop in numbers on the weekend and an increase during the week. The second chart shows the daily change in deaths being reported. The information is updated as it is reported to us.

Our Health and Human Services Department is working on a much better chart. Once I get a hold of it, I will share it with the group. In addition, they have a video about contact tracing and how it works. I will share it when I track it down.

Mary Vazquez – United Way

Fort Bend County has the highest testing rates in Texas. A big shout out to Access Health for helping with that!

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Sugar Creek Baptist Church has delivered over 450 Hope Initiative food boxes across Fort Bend County. We are hosting Food Drives on all three of our campuses each Wednesday morning from 10 am - Noon and partner with Second Mile in Food Distribution.

Brandon Baca – Attack Poverty

Attack Poverty had a great basic needs call yesterday. Palak from Access Health was on our call and communicated that they have signage that can be used at distribution or testing sites. If you are in need of signs reach out to Diana Turner of Palak at Access Health. They are free.

We are working on getting masks to distribution sites so that everyone has them. Families can get both food and masks. We are trying to provide folks that are not in the medical industry with reusable masks because they last longer.

Houston Responds is working with a bunch of churches to produce masks. If you know of anyone in need of masks, please let the basic needs workgroup know and we can work on getting them distributed.

Sue Levin – HGI Counseling

HGI has started seeing increased mental health issues that are getting more severe over time and anticipate that it will continue to rise. We are offering teletherapy and will be offering face to face sessions on a case by case basis. We have the capacity to provide patients with same day appointments for crisis counseling. Individuals can be seen for no cost to low cost services due to some additional funding we received.

Dylan McNally – Harvey Home Connect

A quick update on the Gulf Coast COVID Survey. We are seeing similar mental health trends so thank you Sue for bring that up. We have seen that it is directly related to the income vulnerability.

I want to share the rental assistance for Houston resource. Parts of Fort Bend Zip codes, 77053 and 77099 are within the City of Houston so they can utilize the rent assistance program. The application opens tomorrow (Wednesday) at 10 a.m. Individuals can fill out an application if their landlord has registered for the program. The website is <https://www.houstonrentassistance.org/>.

Spencer Walker – Mental Health of America

I would encourage everyone on this call to pick up the phone and call someone if you need some mental health assistance. There is nothing wrong with getting help. You do not have to be in a crisis to pick up the phone and reach out to someone. Huge shout out to Dr. Amy Harkins and Dr. Sue Levin.

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Elise Kauffman – Friends of North Richmond

We recently got about 600 masks from Fort Bend Social Services, if you would like some masks send me an email and we will get them to you.

Vince Mannio – Texas Agri Life Extension

This is more of an FYI, our Director, Dr. Hyde, sent out letters to county judges across the state of Texas to let them know that Texas Agri Life has appointed about 160 family and community health agents, including two in Fort Bend County to serve as case investigators. They will be required within the next two weeks to dedicate 20 hours per week to visit people who have tested positive trying to determine where they contracted COVID-19. We are undergoing a series of training right now that we are required to participate in.

Hurricane Harvey Updates

Dylan McNally – Harvey Home Connect

Harvey Home Connect is still accepting home repair applications.

Announcements

Mary Vazquez – United Way

Terri Stuart is leaving is United Way team this Friday to join The Fort Bend Literacy Council as their new Executive Director. I hope you all will join me in wishing Terri well, she has been a wonderful part of our team. We hope that she stays engage with Fort Bend Recovers.

Terri Stuart – United Way

Thank you all for your kindness and support. I hope to connect with everyone once I get settled into my new role.

-Adjourn