

# FORT BEND RECOVERS

COVID-19 Weekly Meeting 05/05/20

## 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. Shaunna Harris – United Way
9. Eun Breuer – East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry
10. Calvin Obey - Endeavors
11. Dominique Purvis - Endeavors
12. Mike Martin – Habitat for Humanity
13. Deysi Crespo – Katy Christian Ministries
14. Elise Kaufman – Friends of North Richmond
15. Jacqueline Washington - Endeavors
16. Halley Goldstein – United Way
17. Quynh-Anh McMahan – The George Foundation
18. Alvaro Hernandez – Endeavors
19. Lori Marcus – Texana Center
20. Roy Hayley – Attack Poverty
21. Pennie DeGroot – St. Laurence Catholic Church
22. AP Vo – The Alliance
23. Sue Levin – HGI Counseling
24. Penny Meek – The Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation
25. Dylan McNally – Harvey Home Connect
26. Natalie Cortes – Attack Poverty
27. Tom – Katy Responds
28. Mia White – Houston Tool Bank
29. Annie Derry – Endeavors
30. Ron Peters – Katy Response
31. Chelsea Lucas – Katy Responds
32. Anna Gonzales – Fort Bend Health and Human Services
33. Vickie Bernal – Katy Christian Ministries
34. Jimmy Fenwick – Sugar Land Methodist Church
35. Brandon Baca – Attack Poverty
36. Andrew Van Chau – Brazos River Rotary
37. Melissa Washington - GLO
38. Diana Turner – Access Health

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39. Rashmi Singh – Sewa International
40. Annie Derry – Endeavors
41. Herman Rogers – Endeavors
42. Amy Harkins Ph.D. – Easter Seals of Greater Houston
43. Lucretia Jelks – On the Road Lending
44. Spencer Walker – Mental Health America
45. Clif Cummings – Fort Bend County Chaplains Association
46. Michelle Gonzalez – SVDP
47. Renee Teel – Christ Church Sugar Land
48. Jagruti Sarkar - Sewa International
49. Sarah White – Second Mile

## Updates

Mary Vazquez – United Way

Good morning, welcome to our weekly Fort Bend Recovers call. This week we are featuring preparedness and sharing COVID resources.

Caroline Egan – Fort Bend HS&EM

The county has over 1200 confirmed cases and 30 deaths that we are now reporting. I want to caution people that the number of cases that we are reporting, (1) is a cumulative number from the beginning of march. If you are on our hub there is a history tab you that shows a chart that continues go up. You will not see a bell curve with that particular chart. Our Health and Human Services department is trying to plot a curve based on the data that we have to determine where we are more accurately; (2) the information that is presented on our site, is reported as soon as it is confirmed. For example, one of the deaths that we reported today, is one that we only got notice of recently but the death occurred about a week ago. The information is the most update information we have but it doesn't necessarily mean it's an accurate depiction of what is going on at the moment. As I mentioned before, in the past, our Health and Human Services is looking at other sources of data to understand the true picture of what COVID looks like in Fort Bend County.

We currently have 3 testing sites open in the county. One at the fair grounds in Rosenberg, we have taken over the Smart Financial site, and we are also operating a site at Marshall High School in Missouri City. A huge shout out to Access Health, they have been great partners, we could have not done this without them. We are in the process of opening two additional sites, one in Katy and one at Gallery Furniture along the Grand Parkway in the Richmond area.

We are trying to ramp up our testing capability and really get the messaging out there that if you need to get testing or want to get tested, there is a lot of opportunity for it.

If you go to our response hub there is a phone number at the top that you can call, that talks about how to schedule an appointment or if you go to HHS website which is [www.sbchealth.org](http://www.sbchealth.org) you can click on a

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link to put in your information and someone from the phone bank will call you back to schedule an appointment.

Our HHS has emphasized that they want to test between 3-5 percent of the population to get a baseline of what COVID looks like in the county. That will not only help now but if COVID is like other novel viruses it will help us plan for the future.

The Governor has started allowing businesses to open up. We are still encouraging people to stay home if they can. Fort Bend County has opened up as Monday, allowing employees to come to work. We are not completely as we were before but we are open in a limited capacity.

Rashmi Singh – Sewa International

Sewa International is having a food drive on Saturday, May 9 at West Oak Malls. I will give the flyer to Delena to share with the group. Please share it with anyone who you think may benefit.

We still have PPE and hand sanitizer to give out. Please fill out our google form if you are in need.

Dylan McNally – Harvey Home Connect

The Gulf Coast COVID survey is available at [www.gulfcoastcovidsurvey.org](http://www.gulfcoastcovidsurvey.org). It is a public facing survey to help nonprofit organizations understand the social economic impact of the virus. It's for Greater Houston, Galveston, Fort Bend and surrounding counties. A few updates on the survey itself, we now have the survey available in Vietnamese and Chinese, so Vietnamese and Chinese speakers can fill it out in their native languages. Arabic is on the way.

We only have 134 respondents from Fort Bend. I encourage you to get the survey out and look at the survey results at <https://www.gulfcoastcovidsurvey.org/surveydata>.

An interesting trend we are seeing is one of the questions asks, have you or one of your family members felt hopeless in the last two weeks? We are seeing a really strong correlation to answering yes to that question and being low income. And the percentage that you see of "yes" to that question, decrease with income. It's a further confirmation that our low income and most vulnerable communities are feeling the impact of COVID the most.

Tom Pretti – Katy Responds

Katy Responds is continuing to assist with the city-wide effort of Masks For All Campaign alongside Houston Responds. We are trying to engage 1000 churches to make 1000 masks each resulting in the creation of 1 million masks across the area.

Additionally, we are supporting food bank operations in the Katy area. We are trying to get supplies and gather masks by working within existing channels of distribution to ensure families are getting what they need.

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Natalie Cortes – Attack Poverty

Attack Poverty is still taking new referrals for counseling for Hurricane Harvey impacted individuals. The reason for counseling doesn't have to be Harvey related, it could be for COVID, as long as they were impacted by Harvey. I can provide services at no charge. The flyer is attached, you can share it with your residents. My contact information is Natalie Cortes 832-899-5211, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out.

Lori Marcus – Texana Center

I have an update on the Behavioral and Spiritual Health Work Group.. We are in the final stages of doing our Padlet. It is a website that people can go to for resources. We have it divided into several sections such as, connecting with self, connecting with faith and the community, and connecting with your creative self. As soon as we get consensus from the group that we are good to go, we will get it out to the larger group to use as a resource.

Brandon Baca – Attack Poverty

The distribution and financial assistance group met yesterday at 2 pm.

Elise mentioned the resource document where you can find distribution sites, day care sites for essential workers and financial assistance locations that we can refer folks to. There is a lot of great collaboration happening within the team.

Some off-shoot things we are working on is hot meals for the homeless. There is a small group working on how to address that. We are also looking at additional areas throughout the county where food distribution has not been available and asking how to take advantage of those opportunities as the need arises. When we ask the question, "Is food distribution tapering off?" The answer is no. They are staying constant or increasing.

There is additional financial assistance coming down the pipe through some great funders that will be released in the next week through the group. We will make sure that the new resources are noted in the resource document.

The last thing - we are trying to get a collective impact report through April of all of our agencies so we can report back to this group. We discussed this yesterday in the meeting so that we can report what has been happening at distribution sites and the county to show the collective impact. We want to celebrate and honor everyone's hard work. Agencies have been working really hard to make sure resources are available in our community.

Elise Kauffman – Friends of North Richmond

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Brandon mentioned that there is an off-shoot group talking about what it looks like to provide hot meals to the homeless population. I have been in contact with Tina Hatcher and Michael Gutierrez with Helping Hands to discuss this situation. I will be reaching out to a few people in this group that work directly with the homeless. If you are interested in being a part of this group please email me.

Additionally, Brandon mentioned the resource document, it will be going out today or tomorrow to this group as well as the other group. It has a lot of great resources such as day care sites, testing site information and financial assistance resources. If you have updates or see anything that needs to be corrected please send me an email.

Quynh-Anh McMahan – The George Foundation

This is Quynh-Anh with The George Foundation and I want to share some good news. The press release has gone out but I don't think it has hit the media yet. The George Foundation board of trustees recently approved over \$1.3 million in grants to local nonprofits serving Fort Bend County. I say that to applaud and show respect to those of you on this call and others also who are doing a tremendous job responding to local community needs. The bulk of that \$1.3M did go to grantees that we already had a relationship with. Over 21 organizations serving immediate basic needs, food, financial assistance but also critical needs such as mental health, child abuse, domestic violence organizations and other vulnerable populations. You will be seeing that release circulate in the media. We are just so grateful for all of the hard work that y'all have been doing. Just wanted to share that bit of good news.

Sue Levin – HGI Counseling

Thank you to the George Foundation for funding. I put in the chat that we are offering free and low-cost counseling services to COVID-19 impacted people and families. People can call (346) 291-0969 to get connected to online and teletherapy and phone services.

Mary Vazquez – United Way

211 has answered over 3900 calls in Fort Bend County. The tone of the calls has changed in the last few weeks to really be focused on rent assistance, financial assistance for utilities have been the prevailing needs. For many families this is the second month they have not been able to pay their rent and it's the beginning of the month so lots of bills are due. We are starting to get an influx of calls seeking assistance for these services. Thank you to all the partners that are out there providing these critical services because I know that they are desperately needed at this time.

We are going to switch gears to preparedness if there are no other COVID updates. We really felt it's timely given the season to start thinking about and operationalize with all of you. What is the basis for our preparedness planning and what we should be doing. We also want to encourage you all to think about how your organizations would change your service delivery model should there be a natural disaster that compounds our crisis in our community with COVID. Many of the services we would

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normally provide after a disaster may not be the same type of service delivery method we have used in the past. We wanted to start this conversation with you all.

Delena Pinkney – United Way

Presented the FBR Preparedness Plan. It can be found on the Fort Bend Portal under the Fort Bend Recovers Information Tab.

Lucretia Jelks – On the Road Lending

Today is giving Tuesday. In honor of that, ON the Road Lending is taking a different approach to it. Instead of us asking for donations, we are hosting a Facebook Live today called Proud to Pivot. We are highlighting three agencies that have gone beyond the call of duty during the COVID crisis. We want to highlight acts of kindness. We are in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, Texas and will be talking with an agency from each region. Today we will be interviewing Brandon Baca because we are highlighting Attack Poverty. The live will start at one o'clock, I hope that you all will join us.

-Adjourn