

FORT BEND RECOVERS

COVID-19 Weekly Meeting 05/26/20

Participants

1. Delena Pinkney – United Way
2. Caroline Egan – FB OEM
3. Jacqueline Washington - Endeavors
4. Vince Mannio – Agri Life Extension
5. Amy Harkins Ph.D. – Easter Seals of Greater Houston
6. Halley Goldstein – United Way
7. Rashmi Singh – Sewa International
8. Melinda Garcia – United Way Houston
9. Nadar Afshari – Endeavors
10. Stacy Christ – Harvey Home Connect
11. Melissa Washington – GLO
12. Jagruti Sarkar - Sewa International
13. Mike Youngblood – City of Richmond
14. Calvin Obey - Endeavors
15. Anahi Hernandez – United Way
16. Spencer Walker – Mental Health America
17. Selamawit – Endeavors
18. Sue Levin – HGI Counseling
19. Elise Kaufman – Friends of North Richmond
20. Bernadett Bullock – Endeavors
21. Lucretia Jelks
22. Anthony Pryor – City of Richmond
23. Renee Staley – The Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation
24. Alvaro Hernandez - Endeavors
25. Penny Meek – The Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation
26. Dominique Reed - Endeavors
27. Sarah White – Second Mile
28. Naeem Raja – ICNA Relief
29. Andrew Van Chau – Brazos River Rotary
30. Annie Derry – Endeavors
31. Michelle Gonzalez – SVDP
32. Susan Diren – SVDP
33. Herman Rogers
34. Avalon Sykes – Attack Poverty
35. Timothy Stroud – Easter Seals of Greater Houston
36. Pennie Degroot – St. Lawrence Catholic Church
37. Julie Gaston – The Henderson Wessendorff Foundation
38. Annie Derry – Endeavors

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39. Vickie Bernal – Katy Christian Ministries

40. Qwentadria Ware – Endeavors

Welcome

Mary Vazquez – United Way

Good morning and thank you all for joining us today. I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday weekend while staying safe. Today, Delena will share a couple of resources with you all and then we will get into COVID updates from the County, United Way, workgroups and agencies. We will close the meeting after announcements and a discussion about the meeting schedule moving forward.

Preparedness Resource

Delena Pinkney – United Way

- The link to the Red Cross 2020 COVID-19 Partner Brief Dashboard can be found [here](#). It is a great resource that can help us understand the situation in Fort Bend County as well as other places. Please note, this resource is for partner agencies only, it must not be shared with the public.
- FEMA's COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season Manual can be found on the hidden portal under the COVID-19 tab. It will also be attached to the follow up email that will go out tomorrow.
- The final version of FBR Disaster Response Plan can also be found on the hidden portal under the Fort Bend Recovers tab by end of the week. Please take a look at the document and provide feedback to Delena by June 05, 2020

COVID-19 Updates

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

- We will be watching the Response Hub numbers closely to observe the effects that Memorial Day had on COVID cases. It will take approximately 10-14 days to get a better picture. Please continue to practice safe behaviors while out and encourage people to get tested.
- Fort Bend testing sites will be open through June and people do not need to be symptomatic to get tested. The site in Katy is being relocated to Seven Lakes Middle School, which is right next door to the high school (starting next week).
- One of the funding streams of the County comes by way of the CARES Act, in the amount of \$134 million. Last week at Commissioner's Court, a budget was approved for allocating this funding. Local jurisdictions, small businesses (loan or grant program still to be worked out), hospitals, and COVID expenses incurred by the Health and Human Services Department are among the entities/programs that will receive funding. In addition, \$19 million has been set

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aside for rental and mortgage payment assistance. The funding will be broken into three (3) chunks, \$6.5 million for each quarter left in 2020. Another \$3.5 million will be used to fund a utility assistance program. An advisory committee was created and met to start working out the details of the rental, mortgage, and utility assistance programs.

May Vazquez – United Way

- United Way and The Greater Houston Community Foundation partnered together to create The Greater Houston COVID Recovery Fund. Last week, applicants in round 2 were approved. A media communication will go out later this week (Thursday) to announce the recipients of the awards. A little over \$8 million dollars was disbursed to agencies, including some in Fort Bend County.
- 211 continues to take calls. The call count for the four-county area is over 84,000. Rent assistance is still the number one need, followed by electric and utility payment assistance. Fort Bend's call count is over 5,000. The number one need, similar to those in other counties, are mortgage/rent and utility payment assistance, followed by information for food pantries and COVID testing sites.

Elise Kauffman – Friends of North Richmond

- The Basic Needs Workgroup does not have many changes. We did not meet yesterday because of the holiday and the Governor's speech was scheduled during the previous meeting. The resource documents continue to be updated and was shared with you all. If you have any questions or corrections of additional resources to add to the document please email me at elise@attackpoverty.org
- The Hot Meals for the Homeless event will take place this Saturday, May 30th. If you know anyone who could benefit from a hot meal, please extend them an invitation. Please note, that meals are limited, and we want to serve those that do not have the ability to fix a hot meal, so please extend invitations to those that are truly in need only.
- Fort Bend Social Services shared some masks with us, we have about 100 left. If you would like masks contact Elise and let her know how many is needed.

Sue Levin – HGI Counseling

There is a new program starting soon through Gallery Furniture and Jim McIngvale that will help those that are struggling with unemployment. A large space has been dedicated to host the program called Work Texas. This program will support and provide resources to people that are struggling with employment. It opens on 5/27/2020. HGI has agreed to support the event, providing services. If anyone would like to be connected or have resources to contribute to the program let me know and I will connect you to the organizers.

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Rashmi Singh – Sewa International

- Finishing up a house in Rosharon. Hoping to move the family into the home before June.
- This past Saturday we had two food distributions that gave out 300 grocery bags. The need in the community is great, we did not have enough grocery bags to serve everyone that came. We will have two more food distributions later this week, one in Rosharon and the other off Wilcrest. Five=hundred grocery bags will be given away.
- Sewa has partnered with Houston Responds on mask making. We gave out approximately 400 masks at the food distribution sites.

FBR Meeting Frequency

Mary Vazquez – United Way

- How often should we continue to meet? We get about 40-50 attendees at this meeting each week, so I understand there is still a need for information sharing. What makes sense for us, moving forward? We will try to get some consensus around how often we will meet.
- Starting June 9th, we will begin meeting biweekly and will reassess at the end of June.
- If something should develop between meetings, that you want us to share feel free to reach out to Delena, Caroline, or myself. We can send an email in between meetings to ensure we get resources out in a timely manner.

Announcements

Tim Stroud – Easter Seals

The Easter seals presents Veterans Voice Toastmasters, each Wednesday from 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm. It is a public professional speaking group that helps you find your voice. Anyone can join, you do not need to be a Veteran. The first two sessions are free and if you would like to join after there is a charge. We have programs that can help with the cost. Please use the Zoom Meeting link below to join!

Meeting Room Link: <https://zoom.us/j/150556266>

Amy Harkins – Easter Seals

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I came across an article that talks about how people are choosing their behavior during this pandemic based off the following 4 components, C – Container, A – Agreement with Others, R – Risk level, E – Etiquette. It was very useful. <https://medium.com/@evelindacker/covid-care-e2ede67428d4>

Melinda Garcia – United Way

I would like to announce that Diana Turner will be filling the role of Manager of the Fort Bend United Way Center. She will begin June 1st, and we are excited to onboard her! She is a Fort Bend County native, has previous United Way experience in Austin and is familiar with many of the organizations providing services to Fort Bend County residents.

-Next Meeting Tuesday, June 9, 2020