

FORT BEND RECOVERS

COVID-19 Weekly Meeting 06/09/2020

Participants

1. Mary Vazquez – United Way
2. Delena Pinkney – United Way
3. Caroline Egan – FB OEM
4. Mike Youngblood – City of Richmond
5. Palak Jalan – Access Health
6. Alvaro Hernandez - Endeavors
7. Vickie Bernal – Katy Christian Ministries
8. Avalon Sykes – Attack Poverty
9. Herman Rogers - Endeavors
10. Halley Goldstein – United Way
11. Tina Hatcher – Hope Impacts
12. Michael Gutierrez – Helping Hands
13. Diana Turner – United Way
14. Lucretia Jelks – On the Road Lending
15. Amy Harkins Ph.D. – Easter Seals of Greater Houston
16. Stasha Scruggs – FB Health and Human Services
17. Qwentadria Ware – Endeavors
18. Calvin Obey - Endeavors
19. Melinda Garcia – United Way Houston
20. Julie Gaston – The Henderson Wessendorff Foundation
21. Lori Marcus – Texana Center
22. Jacqueline Washington - Endeavors
23. Timothy Stroud – Easter Seals of Greater Houston
24. Annie Derry – Endeavors
25. Selamawit – Endeavors
26. Stevie Bellow – Shady Oak Primary School
27. Jimmy Fenwick – Sugar Land Methodist Church
28. Penny Meek – The Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation
29. Rashmi Singh – Sewa International
30. AP Vo – The Alliance
31. Aarti Goswani – The Alliance
32. Mia White – Tool Bank
33. Anthony Pryor – City of Richmond
34. Natalie Cortes – Attack Poverty
35. Roy Hayley – Attack Poverty
36. Quynh Anh McMann – The George Foundation
37. Chelsea Lucas – Katy Responds
38. Elise Kaufman – Friends of North Richmond

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39. Dylan McNally – Harvey Home Connect
40. Eun Breur – East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry
41. Vince Mannio – Agri Life Extension
42. Michelle Gonzalez – SVDP
43. Doug Simpson – Second Mile Mission
44. Naeem Raja – ICNA Relief
45. Nadar Afshari – Endeavors

Welcome/Diana Turner Introduction

Mary Vazquez – United Way

Good morning and thank you all for joining us today. Before we jump into our agenda, I would like to introduce Diana Turner, our new Fort Bend Center Manager. We are happy to have her. She is a Fort Bend resident and has experience working with United Way in Austin, Texas.

Diana Turner – United Way

I am excited to work with United Way again. Mary and Melinda have done a fabulous job reorienting me to this work. I have been learning, learning, learning, so I am in a bit of an information overload this week, but I am happy to help you in any way that I can. Again, I am happy to be here.

Fort Bend County Fund Update

Stasha Scruggs – Fort Bend Health and Human Services

- Last Monday the county opened the CARES program, to allow individuals and families to apply for assistance. The goal was to receive 10, 0000 applications and we reached that goal on Thursday. We are no longer accepting applications.
- After scrubbing the data and removing the disqualified applications we have a total of 7,531 applicants. We are in the processing of calling these applicants to continue processing their applications.
- Attack Poverty, East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministries, Second Mile, Katy Christian Ministries and Catholic Charities are assisting us with processing the applications.
- The next phase will open July 20th. Applicants that did not qualify the first time can reapply.
- If anyone has any questions my phone number is 281-238-3504 or you can email the social services inbox at fortbendcounty@tx.gov.

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COVID-19 Updates

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

- Response Hub is reporting 2,138 cases. No new cases were reported over the weekend because the State system was down for upgrades. Moving forward new cases will be posted at 1:30 p.m. instead of 8:30 a.m.
- Across the region we are starting to see an uptick in cases. We think this is the affects of the reopening, Memorial Day, and Mother’s Day. The Texas Medial Centers has also seen a slight uptick related to COVID-19. If we continue this trend, they will have to implement their surge plan. This is important to Fort Bend County because many of our hospitals are satellite locations that are an extension of hospitals in the medical center. When patients need medical care that is beyond the capacity of the satellite locations, they send those patients to the medical center.
- As of Monday, June 08, 2020 we turned the Rosenberg Testing site over to the State. They have their own process as to how people can make an appointment for testing. The flyers have been posted to Slack and will be emailed.
- Health and Human Services is looking to set up mobile testing site. They hope to have a plan in place by the end of June beginning of July. More to come on this.
- Testing sites will be suspended at 2 p.m. because of the heat advisory. We want to ensure we are taking care of the individuals that are administering tests. Testing sites are still free, and it takes up to 5 days to get results.

May Vazquez – United Way

- 211 continues to take calls. The call count for the four-county area is over 500,000. It is a 20% increase from the same time frame last year.
- There were 97,000 COVID-19 related calls for the four-county area. 50,000 of those calls were for rent assistance, 26,000 for electric payment assistance, 16,000 for food pantry and 25,000 for COVID information and testing sites.
- Fort Bend’s call count is 5,633. The number one need is rent assistance coming in at 2, 273 calls, followed by 1600 for COVID symptoms and testing sites, 1720 for electric payment assistance and 869 for food pantries. The basic needs in our community are increasing and will probably continue to increase.

Brandon Baca – Attack Poverty (Basic Needs Workgroup)

- The Basic Needs Workgroup is meeting the opposite weeks of this group. We met last week Monday. Our biggest focus is getting out to underserved areas, making sure that financial resources are getting out to those in need and assessing the technology needs for students. We want to ensure they have access to things like Wi-Fi and laptops that will enable them to learn.

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- The Hot Meals for the Homeless event was a success. We had about 25 individuals show up. This will be a monthly gathering. During these events we will be doing assessments. Hope Impact, Social Services, Catholic Charities, and Helping Hands are involved in the assessment.
- Katy Response has been part of a process for masks through FEMA. Will be dismantling over 200,000 masks to different nonprofits for their use as well as their volunteers. We are waiting for those to come in. Houston Responds is coordinating an effort for 1.5 million masks for the Houston area.
- If you have any updates for our resource document, please send them to Elise Kauffman. We want to make sure they we are sharing up-to-date information.

Lori Marcus – Texana Center

- The Behavioral and Spiritual Health group meet prior to this meeting. We have launched the portal and we have created a flyer to advertise the site. Please spread it to your networks and community.

Brandon Baca – Attack Poverty

- Our disaster team put together a response manual that will be made available for everyone.
- We have additional resources through The George Foundation and United Way that is available. There is a form on our website that list the services we have available.

Natalie Cortes – Attack Poverty

- We can provide free counseling online for Fort Bend Residents. The intent of this counseling is to be short term, to help deal with current stressors. Delena will be sending the flyer out.

Vickie Bernal – Katy Christian Ministries

- We are collaborating with Fort Bend County and we also have The George Foundation COVID Resources. We are in the process of going through the approval process for. We have about 30-40 people who have been assessed that we are just waiting on funds to be able to help.
- Food Fair going on at Powerhouse Church on Saturday at 9 am.
- We are continuing to distribute food at our pantries.

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Tina – Hope Impact

- We recently hired a new employee and will be coming out to Fort Bend County to do housing assessments. If you know of anyone in need of an assessment, please give me a call. We have funding available that will allow us to get them off the street immediately.

Chelsea Lucas – Katy Responds

- We are still waiting to hear back about The Masks. The second I have information on that I will share with the group.

Rashmi Singh – Sewa International

- We identified some low-income areas that are need of food, so our next distribution will be at some apartments. Having them at apartments have worked very well for us in the past. The flyer has been sent to Delena for distribution.

Hurricane Preparedness

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

- What does shelter and evacuation plans look like in light of COVID? What will happen if our internet and power go down? FEMA has been looking at our supply chain method and they have said that getting out power and internet will take priority so that we can all communicate with one another.
- During heat advisories we usually tells folks to go to the mall or the library, but we are not able to do because of COVID. If you all have any ideas I would love to discuss.
- FEMA has said they will reduce the amount of in person inspections for the next disaster, so it is important to document, document, document! People will need to take photos of their home to approve damage. We should push this out to our community.

Delena Pinkney – United Way

- I would like to share a cool preparedness tool created by Houston TranStar. They developed an interactive map that allows you to see road closure, high water areas, alternate routes and much more during storms. They also have a downloadable app for both iPhone and Android. Website: <https://traffic.houstontranstar.org/layers/>

-Next Meeting Tuesday, June 23, 2020