

FORT BEND RECOVERS

COVID-19 Biweekly Meeting 07/07/2020

Participants

1. Mary Vazquez – United Way of Greater Houston
2. Delena Pinkney – United Way of Greater Houston
3. Caroline Egan – Fort Bend Homeland Security & Emergency Management
4. Palak Jalan – Access Health
5. Diana Turner – United Way
6. Lucretia Jelks – On the Road Lending
7. Amy Harkins Ph.D. – Easter Seals of Greater Houston
8. Qwentadria Ware – Endeavors
9. Calvin Obey - Endeavors
10. Lori Marcus – Texana Center
11. Annie Derry – Endeavors
12. Selamawit – Endeavors
13. Stevie Bellow – Shady Oak Primary School
14. Penny Meek – The Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation
15. Rashmi Singh – Sewa International
16. Anthony Pryor – City of Richmond
17. Elise Kaufman – Friends of North Richmond
18. Eun Breur – East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry
19. Vince Mannino – Agri Life Extension
20. Nadar Afshari – Endeavors
21. Andrew Van Chau – Fort Bend Rotary Club
22. Melissa Washington – GLO
23. Spencer Walker – Mental Health of America
24. Renee Staley – The Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation
25. Sue Levin – HGI
26. Nikki Agner – St. Laurence Catholic Church
27. Sindhu Sathes – Access Health
28. Elise Kauffman – Friends of North Richmond
29. Shirley Colins Clark – Access Health
30. Dominique Reed – Endeavors
31. Anthony Pryor – City of Richmond
32. Mariana Gaines – Katy Christian Ministries
33. Halley Goldstein – United Way of Greater Houston
34. Melinda Garcia – United Way of Greater Houston
35. Deysi Crespo – Katy Christian Ministries
36. Quynh-Anh McMann – The George Foundation
37. Chelsea Lucas – Katy Responds
38. Sarah White – Second Mile

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39. Ron Peters – Katy Responds
40. Ap Vo – The Alliance
41. Selamawit Weldmariam – Endeavors
42. Stacey Christ – Connective
43. Achalesh Amar – Sewa International
44. Mia White – Houston Tool Bank
45. Renee Teel – Christ Church Sugar Land
46. Pennie DeGroot – St. Laurence Catholic Church
47. Dennis Dowell – Fort Bend Women’s Center

Welcome

Mary Vazquez – United Way of Greater Houston

Hello! Thank you for joining us. Today, we will receive COVID updates from the county, United Way, and Fort Bend Recovers Workgroups. There will also be an opportunity for agencies to provide updates.

COVID 19 Updates

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

- In early May, Fort Bend’s positivity rate was 2-3 percent. Currently it is around 12 percent. This number is derived from positive results at Fort Bend County/Access Health testing sites.
- The Smart Financial Center, Marshall High School, Gallery Furniture, Seven Lakes Junior High School, and the Fair Ground testing sites are still operating. Each site is testing upward of 1,000 people per day. Consequently, there has been a delay in receiving test results. It is now taking an average of 7 days to get results back. Note, that test sites may close early due to the heat index. We want to make sure that those administering test are safe and well.
- The Texas State Guard will be operating the Fair Ground testing site through July 15th. It is open 7 days a week. All scheduling for this site is online only. The other sites will be operational through the end of July.
- Health and Human Services and Access Health is offering temporary pop up sites. This week there is a focus on offering services in the Arcola/Fresno area. We are not heavily advertising these sites because we want to make sure testing is available for individuals that reside in the area. Flyers have been sent to the local government and agencies in that area. Access Health has set up a separate line to accommodate appointments for this pop-up site.
- Last week the Commissioner’s Court voted to extend Fort Bend County’s Disaster declaration through the end of July.
- The Governor issued an order for all individuals to wear masks while in public. Exceptions to the rule can be found in the order listing.
- The Mortgage/Rent/Utility Assistance Program will open on July 20th. Applications can be submitted on www.Fortbendcounty.tx.gov

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- County hospitals are full. They are working on plans to free up bed space. Additionally, EMS call volume has increased. From June – July 4th of 2019 the EMS department was averaging between 85-90 cases a day. Through the same time frame this year they are averaging about 110 calls a day.

Mary Vazquez – United Way of Greater Houston

- To date 211 has answered about 127,000 calls related to COVID in our 4-county service area.
 - 7,210 calls have been answered in Fort Bend County.
 - 3,000 of those calls are for rent assistance.
 - 2400 for utility assistance
 - 1400 for testing site information
- There is a new tool called Flood Factor that has updated information on your flood risk. It rates your home's risk of flooding on a scale from 1-10. It is a great tool to utilize. The website to view your flood risk is www.floodfactor.com
- TranStar has new information about roadway flood risks that they want to get out to the public. For additional information please reference the FBR communication sent out on ??
- Attack Poverty is having internet connectivity issues, so they are not on the call. They are continuing to move forward with the county wide financial assistance. Food distribution continues with updated USDA regulations. If you have any questions reach out to Elise Kauffman or Brandon Baca.

Lori Marcus – Texana Center

- The Behavioral and Spiritual Health Workgroup met today ahead of this meeting. We are continuing to work on the Padlet (<https://padlet.com/FBRecovers/vdm7vhv41eg83vpt>).
- I am certified to train in Psychological First Aid. I have also gone through the train the trainer program for Skills for Psychological Recovery. If anyone is interested in these trainings, please let me know. They will be hosted via Zoom.
- COVID Coach and Help Kids Cope are two great apps that help individuals deal with the stressors and emotions associated with disasters. Please check them out when you have a chance.

Amy Harkins – Easter Seals

- We would love to hear any resources that you all are interested in having on the Padlet. We are also encouraging folks to create content that is hyper focused on our community's needs.
- Easter Seals is offering a broad range of groups that cater to Veterans and their families. Please make referrals, as necessary.

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General Updates

Vince Mannino – Texas Agri Life

- Texas Agri Life is looking to fill a Disaster Assessment and Recovery role. This is a State position with full benefits. If you are interested please click the link below to access the job description. https://tamus.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/AgriLife_Extension_External/job/Houston-AL-EXT/Extension-Agent---Disaster-Assessment-and-Recovery---Harris-County-Service-Area_R-025297-1

Chelsea Lucas – Katy Responds

- Thank you all, for your participation in the Mask For All Campaign. If anyone still needs masks, please let us know. We have a few in stock and we are also still collecting masks from churches.

Stacy Christ – Connective (formerly Harvey Home Connect)

- Connective is still taking applications for Hurricane Harvey repairs. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

Next Meeting July 21, 2020 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.