

FORT BEND RECOVERS

COVID-19 Meeting 08/04/2020

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. Lori Marcus – Texana Center
9. Annie Derry – Endeavors
10. Stevie Bellow – Shady Oak Primary School
11. Penny Meek – The Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation
12. Rashmi Singh – Sewa International
13. Anthony Pryor – City of Richmond
14. Elise Kaufman – Friends of North Richmond
15. Eun Breur – East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry
16. Vince Mannino – Agri Life Extension
17. Melissa Washington – GLO
18. Spencer Walker – Mental Health of America
19. Renee Staley – The Henderson-Wessendorff Foundation
20. Sue Levin – HGI
21. Dominique Reed – Endeavors
22. Anthony Pryor – City of Richmond
23. Halley Goldstein – United Way of Greater Houston
24. Sarah White – Second Mile
25. Renee Teel – Christ Church Sugar Land
26. Pennie DeGroot – St. Laurence Catholic Church
27. Dennis Dowell – Fort Bend Women’s Center
28. Aarti Goswani – The Alliance
29. Dolores Lopez – FBC HS&EM
30. Maggie Peterson – Camp Shields
31. Rose Pickens – GCCAC
32. Tim Stroud – Easter Seals
33. Natalie Cortes – Attack Poverty
34. Vickie Bernal – KCM
35. Michael Youngblood – City of Richmond
36. Michelle Hall – Christ Church Sugar Land
37. Michael – Helping Hands

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Welcome

Mary Vazquez – United Way of Greater Houston

Hello! Thank you for joining us. Today, Access Health will give a COVID testing update. We will also hear updates from the county, United Way, work groups and agency/organizations.

COVID Testing Recap

Palak Jalan – Access Health

Palak with Access Health provided an update on testing in Fort Bend County for the months of April – July 2020, including changes in testing rates, positivity rates, demographic data, etc. (Note: Due to confidentiality reasons, the presentation and specific data will not be shared.)

COVID 19 Updates

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

- The Marshall High School testing site has closed. There will be additional changes made to sites in the coming weeks as schools open.
- The state of Texas is still operating the Fair Ground testing site in Rosenberg. Two changes have been made: the registration/appointment system has been updated and they have created a new website. Details can be found on Slack.
- Due to the decreased number of requests for tests in the county, sites have resumed testing A-symptomatic individuals. It takes 3-5 days to receive test results.
- The number of confirmed cases is still going up, however the rate at which they are increasing is slowing. This means that social distancing and wearing masks is working. Note, that you may start seeing discrepancies in the way that deaths are reported from the county vs the state.
- Our disaster declaration has been extended through the end of August. The mask order that was put in place in June expired at the end of July. However, the governor's order is still in place, so businesses are still required to wear masks.
- The county's positivity rate has decreased slightly since the last report out.
- Approximately 50 contact tracers are working in the county to help track COVID cases.

Mary Vazquez – United Way of Greater Houston

- United Way joined forces with the Greater Houston Community Foundation to create the Greater Houston COVID-19 relief fund. To date, \$17 million has been raised and \$13 million has been allocated to organizations. At the end of this month (August) the remaining funds will be disbursed to partners. The priority has been on basic needs and financial assistance.
- 211 has answered over 888,000 calls for assistance in the first 7 months of this year.
 - Over 200,000 calls have been COVID related

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- 56,000 calls for medical - COVID testing
- 44,000 calls for rental and mortgage assistance
- 32,000 calls for utility assistance
- 34,000 calls for programs that help with income support
- This is Delena Pinkney's last meeting with us as her grant contract is coming to an end on August 14th. I want to thank her for all the great work that she has done with and for us. To help in her absence, United Way staff Angelica Alvarado and Halley Goldstein will be with us.

Lori Marcus – Texana Center

- We are continuing to move forward with our Padlet. From mid-June through July we had 558 total views and 203 visitors. Prior to that we had about 75 visitors, so it is getting some traction. Please continue to share it with your community.
- We shared the Padlet at the Interfaith Council meeting a couple weeks ago. We received a lot of great feedback and information.
- If anyone has information that would enhance the Padlet, please let us know. We are more than happy to add it.

Elise Kauffman – Friends of North Richmond

- The Basic Needs Work Group has not met since the last Fort Bend Recovers meetings in July. We do not have any updates to share currently. Our focus has been getting school supplies to students.

Impact of COVID on Agencies

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

We want to have a discussion to see the impact of COVID on your agency. What do you need to continue providing services to the community? Below are a few questions to consider while doing your report out.

- Number of clients in April-June 2019 vs April-June 2020 (per month)?
- Number of new clients seen?
- Are there any differences between these new clients and previous clients (e.g. income levels)?
- What are the biggest requests for assistance that your agency is seeing?
- What unmet needs or types of assistance does your agency need to provide services?

Mike – Helping Hands

- Number of clients in April-June 2019 vs April-June 2020 (per month)

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	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Jan	378	575
Feb	374	468
Mar	302	780
April	420	1208
May	387	1881
June	377	1801

Amy Harkins – Easter Seal

- Easter Seals Greater Houston - In general, we have moved as much programming as possible to tele-video. We have Bridging Apps (Assistive Technologies Program) available if families need tech support as schools are reopening online. We can offer (a limited amount, maybe 20 families) COVID emergency financial assistance to families with individuals with disabilities.
- Number of clients in April-June 2019 vs April-June 2020 (only Veterans Mental Health)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
April	189	288
May	190	255
June	151	275

- Number of new clients (new intakes; child and adult)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
April	23	21
May	24	27
June	13	26

Sue Levin – HGI

- HGI's client load went down in March/April, was even in May, and went up in June. Most clients told us initially that they wanted to wait until they could meet in person. Over time, they realized that we were not going to be "in the office" for some time, and started coming in. I do not have July numbers yet. Our clients (HGI) are not paying the same level of fees-- they are down by 25%. And they were low to begin with!

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Eun Breuer – East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry

- Food Pantry - Between March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020, the Ministry has served 5,399 families consisting of 14,184 adults and 10,753 children with Covid-19 Relief Sacks and there is approximately 87.7% increase in the number of families per day compared to the pre-crisis period. Financial Assistance - Since March 2020, the Ministry has been receiving about 40% increased phone calls asking for financial assistance.

Elise Kauffman – Friends of North Richmond

- Number of clients in April-June 2019 vs April-June 2020 (per month)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
April	129	8486
May	107	4277
June	402	3696

- We are seeing various income levels. The biggest request has been around our after school tutoring program that we will be relaunching. Parents are asking for that increased support. In addition, we will be offering technology classes to parents.

Palak Jalan – Access Health

- We are seeing an increase in clients that do not have insurance due to job loss. In the beginning of the pandemic, our telehealth numbers were down but we have seen a steady increase over time.
- We have been working to figure out how we can enhance our telehealth services remotely. We want to be able to take vitals remotely and offer other services. We want to be able to do more well visits online.

Next Meeting September 08, 2020 from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.