

## COVID-19 Update Meeting Minutes 4/7/2020

1. Situation Report
  - a. This data is not comprehensive just what's being reported to PfH; 15 positive cases, many at Grady.
  - b. 1 out of 15 passed away; at least 5 of the 15 individuals have recovered and are out of isolation, doing well
2. Testing
  - a. Mercy care has been working with large congregate shelters to begin testing, in partnership with CDC, at large scale shelters- starting today at Gateway- testing staff, tomorrow testing clients.
  - b. Schedule provided by Mercy Care; estimate that it will take time to test all individuals at the 4 large centers. Will continue testing through 22nd of this month. Those that test positive will be transported to Isolation Unit following the protocol. Due to propensity for false negatives, testing will be used to identify positive cases only.
3. Isolation Unit Update-
  - a. We do have hotel secured, working to stand up staffing in partnership with Gateway. We did find and contract with a security company. We're ready to go however there is an issue with hotel, state, and insurance carrier. We anticipate resolution today and that the lease will be fully executed. We have staff on stand-by to start working this afternoon as soon as we hear the final go ahead.
  - b. Working with city to have an alternative plan for positive tests; if we get this stood up today, looking to stand up an additional site
  - c. All referrals must go through the DPH Nurse line
  - d. Isolation Unit is prioritized for those who are testing positive either at testing sites or hospitals and for those who have a confirmed exposure to someone who is confirmed as having tested positive. Confirmed positives will be placed in isolation and confirmed exposed will be placed in quarantine at the Isolation Unit.
  - e. We are continuing to do daily interviews and onboarding in an effort to create a pool of Resident Advisors to staff the Isolation unit.
4. Outreach/encampment
  - a. We are continuing with Phase 1 of our Outreach plan. The focus is education. We anticipate moving to Phase 2 by the end of this week. Phase 2 includes symptom screening and transportation to testing sites to get tested.
  - b. Donation of masks today- 4p-5p today or 10a- 11a tomorrow. Please note that limit is 50 masks per organization (homeless service providers only) to be used for organization staff and clients

- c. Currently working in partnership with Mercy Care and In Town to bottle hand sanitizer. Anticipating a donation of 5000 empty bottles to fill and distribute this week. Let us know if your agency has a need
  - d. Looking for a lot more volunteers for outreach
- 5. Food and supplies
  - a. Launching Food War Room- first meeting is today at noon. Plan is to work together to meet current and growing demand for food and to develop and share resources.
  - b. In need of people who are interested in assisting with pick-up and delivery of meals
  - c. If you have food as a supplier or have food needs- delivering/handing out food to community; follow up with Chelsea and Liliana- link supply and demand
- 6. HMIS/DCA
  - a. Request to add in isolation specific data fields- should be in Client Track today for isolation units to use
  - b. Currently 3000 screenings statewide and almost up to 1300 in ATL; just under 1000 clients in ATL; 250 screening in system per day; only five total symptomatic; 717 underlying illness; 443 over 55
  - c. Addendum to Privacy policy will be sent out to providers today or tomorrow. It will include a script of necessary language that needs to be included when speaking to clients.
- 7. Information sharing, questions, comments
  - a. Question about type of test and false negative
    - i. Emily from CDC- negative test can become positive an hour later, doesn't work to clear people; regardless of testing anyone could be positive at any time; not recommending testing as a way of clearing people and instead to use testing to identify positives only.
  - b. Testing schedule?
    - i. Not public- provided to shelters where they are testing
  - c. Question about the possibility of moving people to one safe encampment location that provides access to clean water, food, and basic sanitation. Concerned that some unsheltered are being unintentionally overlooked and that homeless are congregating at airport.
    - i. Partnership for food- will be disseminating meals throughout community- boxed and ready to go so there isn't congregating- and looking to procure food distributors
    - ii. Looking for hand washing stations- buy them from distributors?

- iii. Evaluating situation at airport, call with mayor today. Looking to stand up units for healthy homeless- likely more apt to come to hotel; evaluating financial needs- public money won't come soon enough; looking at ways to unlock dollars reimbursed down the road- follow up offline.
  - iv. Possible security issues when considering moving individuals to one encampment; currently a sense of desperation around food is leading to acts of violence. Anticipate that anxiety will decrease when meals are more regular; this concern will be addressed in food call later this afternoon.
- d. Zaban- Paradise (with Rebecca's Tent) is planning for drop-in and resource services for women and couples (with/without children) beginning May (showers, laundry, meals, referrals). We have the space to do this safely. We need guidance and help with these services.
- i. Follow up offline and connect with DPH and they can answer all questions
- e. Interested in gathering pictures of staff and clients using PPE equipment (masks); over 5000 masks have been donated and we'd like to send them a thank you that includes pictures of their donations being used. Please try not to take full face pictures of clients so that we can publish the photos without a consent form. Send any pictures to Jen Williams at [jwilliams@partnersforhome.org](mailto:jwilliams@partnersforhome.org)