

COVID Update Meeting 7/10/20

Isolation Unit and Non-Congregate Hotels

- The Isolation Unit Hotel work continues and operations will continue through the end of September. There is a possibility that it will continue past September. Census remains less than 10. It has remained very low over the last 2 months.
- The Non-Congregate Hotel work continues. The census has dropped to the 219 range. The contract has been extended through the end of August. PfH, HOPE Atlanta, and other partners are working rapidly to decompress and reduce the total census at the hotel by moving individuals into permanent housing. With the focus shifting to recovery efforts, i.e. moving individuals into permanent housing, the hotel is not currently taking new enrollments.

Funding and Recovery Strategy

- More details will be given at the CoC meeting on Tuesday, July 14 as to the recovery strategy and its status. PfH and its partners are working to complete financial model to determine how to use COVID-19 relief funds.
- Focus groups have been held to discuss prioritization for the additional round of ESG funds allocated to the COA. These groups have provided input on the investment strategy for these funds.
- The current strategy is to pivot from short term solutions with the funds, i.e. the hotels, to longer term solutions such as investment in permanent housing. This method is more cost effective in the long run and can stretch funding dollars further.
- Currently PfH and its partners are looking into how many units of RRH could be created through the ESG funding. The permanent housing solutions will be prioritized for not only the chronic population but also the nonchronic individuals who meet the CDC guidelines as high risk for COVID-19. Additionally, PfH and its partners are looking upstream to determine the number of individuals who are currently on the housing queue that have a disabling condition and will be timing into chronicity.
- Most of this work will be done by the end of the year, with the goal being to house between 700- 800 individuals during that time.
- PfH and its partners continue to work on unit identification.

Testing

- A routine testing schedule has been started by Mercy Care and extends through the end of September.
- There will be 2 testing events next week-
 - **Crossroad: Tuesday, July 14 from 9 am- 1 pm**
 - **Salvation Army: Wednesday, July 15 from 1- 5 pm**
- Mercy Care is partnering with CORE for these mass testing events. Labs are currently backed up and turn around time is 4- 5 days. CORE testing results are pushed directly to phone through email or app. Mercy Care is working with CORE to ensure that individuals that do not have phones are contacted with their test results. They are reaching out to the shelters or agencies where the testing event was held to locate individuals that were tested.

- Two new testing locations will be added to the regular schedule over the next few weeks. Testing will be held at Gateway Center every other week as well as the Non-Congregate Hotel.
- Mercy Care is also looking to add an additional testing site at Mercy Church/Intown Collaborative Ministries.
- Please send any suggestions as to where to locate additional testing sites to Mercy Care. The focus is still on outdoor and mass testing sites.

Food and Supplies

- Food distribution ended last Friday, July 3. The distribution had gone from 900 to 500 meals and was wrapped up based on input and recommendations.
- Please contact Chelsea Arkin (carkin@partnersforhome.org) with updates, especially if current food programs become overwhelmed, etc.
- PfH still has a small number of masks and gloves. Please reach out to Chelsea Arkin to request.

Information Sharing, Questions, Comments

- Mercy Care will be continuing TB testing. State has agreed to continue that funding at a 50% level. More information about scheduling, etc. will be sent out going forward.
- Mercy Care reopened all 5 of their clinics last week. They began offering services that were paused during the initial COVID crisis, including dental and vision.
- Regarding the current situation in Georgia, is Mercy care seeing any change in the positive COVID cases in PEH?
 - Mercy Care will not know if there is any change until after the first couple of rounds of testing. They will update once those rounds have been completed.
- Any changes or updates in agencies operations, especially for ES agencies, can be sent to Jillian Hart (jhart@partnersforhome.org).