

Atlanta CoC Governing Council
Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2020
Webinar

Members Present: Jack Hardin, AJ Robinson, Monica Johnson, Natalie Hall, Carol Collard, Jimiyu Evans, Phillip Hunter, Janet Tharp, Jennifer Turner-Reid, Dana Inman, Tom Andrews, Howard Grant, Marc Pollack, Ashlee Starr for Howard Grant, and David Whisnant for Tonya Curry

Staff Present: Cathryn Marchman, Jen Williams, Jillian Hart,

Welcome, AJ Robinson

- There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by AJ Robinson.
- The minutes of the December 17, 2019 meeting, having been previously distributed, were approved with the following change:
 - Ms. Johnson's last name be added to the members present.

COVID-19 Update, Cathryn Marchman

- The primary activities for the COVID-19 homeless response include testing, transportation, isolation beds, supply coordination, outreach/encampment coordination, and communications and coordination.
 - Please see slide deck for more information on the primary activities.
- Testing
 - Grady has agreed to prioritize testing for vulnerable populations. Gateway is a possible testing station and this will be created by the early part of next week.
 - Transportation will be set up to and from shelters and outreach locations for those that are most at risk and symptomatic. Individuals will also be isolated while they are awaiting test results.
 - Mr. Andrews clarified that initially 50-100 individuals will be able to be tested each day. There is discussion as to who to prioritize and where to start. Mercy Care is actively looking to gain capacity. The biggest hinderances are swab kits, PPE, and processing capabilities. Only nurse practitioners or doctors can administer tests.
- Transportation
 - Grady has committed an EMS truck and driver. They are waiting to begin once isolation beds and testing have begun, as all three will need to be rolled out simultaneously.
- Isolation
 - Hotels will be used for isolation instead of for healthy homeless, as was previously reported. At least 173 beds have been created through hotels, with 5-8 more hotels willing to partner. Universities have also been willing to provide dorms for isolation.
 - PFH and its partners are working with GEMA and the City of Atlanta to get these beds stood up.
 - Ms. Inman asked what the goal is for number of isolation beds.

- Ms. Marchman replied that the recommendation that went forth from the governor's subcommittee was 1500. These beds are for both the homeless population and for displaced persons.
 - Please note there is discussion as to how the individuals in isolation will be kept in their rooms, as well as security, and mental health. This may include a staffing structure with other providers and leveraging large workforce that is currently out of work.
- Outreach
 - Regular outreach providers have been convened and are participating in Phase 1 of the outreach plan: education and information to all city beats. A flyer was created for this purpose.
 - The second phase will consist of symptom screening, testing, and transportation once access and isolation beds have been stood up.
- Communication and Coordination
 - There are two calls a week for providers to provide updates and share ideas to adapt practices across the CoC. Updates from these calls as well as other pertinent updates are being sent out at least 2 times per week via email. A "Covid Update" page was also added to the PFH website with regular updates.
 - PFH is in daily communication with Grady, the Mayor's office, CDC, Mercy Care as well as other partners to coordinate work.
 - Symptom screening tool has been rolled out across CoC. Provider needs are also being collected through surveys sent out by PFH last week.
 - A feedback loop is being created with other area hospitals in addition to Grady.
- Governor Subcommittee and City Funds
 - \$10M has been requested in state funds to assist with the statewide effort. \$1M has been dedicated from the city as well, specifically for those experiencing homelessness.
 - The \$10M requested from the state was not broken down by geography but rather project type.

HMIS Updates, David Whisnant

- The symptom screening tool has been added to HMIS. To date 232 assessments have been completed in the Atlanta area, with only 1 individual responding affirmatively to all symptoms. Out of the 232, 49 individuals have preexisting conditions and 60 are over 55.
- A data request form has been prepared for outside agencies to request coronavirus specific data.
- Mr. Whisnant emphasized DCA's desire to use the steering committee format for this issue and to coordinate the statewide response with funds, etc.