

Coordinating Committee Minutes 03/27/2020

Regional COVID updates:

- **Heidi Grove, Boulder County Homeless Solutions**
 - Began COVID-19 preparations one month ago
 - Repurposed East Boulder Rec Center into COVID Recovery Center
 - Hiring staff on a revolving basis to manage this location 24/7
 - 6 symptomatic people at this location so far
 - No positives for COVID among unhoused population
 - Medical Reserve Corps providing medical services
 - Funded by various city/county/municipality sources
 - Run by full-time staff paid by the county and community volunteers
 - 7 staff currently onboarding
 - Also working on opening a day shelter so people can wash their hands, get some rest, get testing services, etc.
 - Response to question:
 - Did *not* do an RFP, took this on as a county and repurposed city property
 - All shelters are fully operational, Boulder has 6 total shelters in the county
- **Angie Nelson, Department of Housing Stability**
 - Emergency Operation Center (EOC) operating in City/County of Denver
 - New resources that have come out of planning
 - Supplemental Shelter – where shelter providers are referring people experiencing symptoms, social distancing available, able to be transported until symptoms have resolved or medical assistance/testing becomes necessary
 - Now located at Tooley Hall (4280 Kearney St, Denver, CO 80216)
 - 49-person capacity, max so far has been between 14-17
 - Activated Respite – hotel rooms for isolating people tested for COVID
 - 20 rooms in Activated Respite
 - Must be referred by healthcare provider within City/County of Denver
 - Must have been tested for COVID (positive or awaiting results)
 - Testing happening for those screened through the Denver Health Nurses line/Denver Health ER as well as Stout Street Health Center
 - West Building at the VOA family motel, other sites being negotiated
 - Hoping to scale to 100+ new rooms within the next week or so
 - Being served meals, medical care, necessary treatment
 - Department of Parks/Rec and Human Services have stepped up by taking over management of Supplemental Shelter and providing support at Respite locations
 - Working with provider partners at VOA, CCH, Bridge House to gain more staffing/scaling resources

- Testing Services
 - Denver Health Nurse Line (303-739-1211) open 24/7 to be assessed for testing
 - Stout Street Health Center to be screened/assessed for testing
- Funding sources?
 - Trying to tap into FEMA dollars, city funding, using contracts with VOA/CCH
 - Angie will get back with more detailed funding sources
- Who is leading City of Denver?
 - Mayor Hancock and his administration, Director of Public Health/Environment, Director of Housing Stability, from appointee level to their delegates
- Who is the point person for homelessness in this crisis?
 - Britta Fischer – Director of Housing Stability
 - Leads at housing/homelessness agencies
- Who is still operational?
 - Samaritan House overnight shelter, longer-term program on paused
 - Denver Rescue Mission
 - Salvation Army Crossroads
 - The Delores Project – has changed intake process
 - Family Promise has moves families currently served into motel rooms
 - City's existing contract motels, standard voucher procedures
 - DHS currently closed to outside guests
 - Only families going to Samaritan house between 5:30pm-8:30pm can access this program
- What kind of street outreach is happening in encampments?
 - Denver Street Outreach collaborative still active in the community
 - Focusing on people they have existing relationships with and connecting people to housing/sheltering services
 - Additional support from Dept Public Health/Environment coming to distribute informational materials, maps on where to wash hands, food resources, etc.
- Are there still sweeps?
 - Nothing officially stating otherwise, although lower-level offenses seem to be less enforced if at all
- Resources (posted on denvergov.org)
 - <https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/environmental-health/news/coronavirus-info.html>
 - Evictions are not prioritized currently
 - Utilities are not being turned-off currently
 - City of Denver temporary rental/utility assistance now running
- Contact angela.nelson@denvergov.org to be added to her daily COVID email updates
- **Kelli Barker, Jefferson County**
 - No alternative care sites/motel system for people experiencing COVID symptoms yet
 - Considering purchasing or master-leasing a block of hotel rooms
 - Homelessness providers have seen small numbers of symptomatic people
 - No confirmed cases (to her knowledge)
 - Public Health has been in contact about unsheltered outreach/education

- Has been able to get volunteers through Help Colorado Now
 - *If you need volunteers, use Help Colorado Now @ covrn.com*
- Severe Weather shelter closed likely through the end of the season due to being run almost entirely by older volunteers who are at higher risk and unable to serve currently
- Evergreen Shelter Program is open, able to secure permanent/temporary site
 - has experienced most people with symptoms so far
- Testing also limited, criteria is very narrow
- How are motel rooms being paid for?
 - Expecting to be reimbursed by FEMA
- **Sam Olson, Adams County**
 - 7 task-forces organized by the Rocky Mountain Cradle to Career Partnership
 - Sam is working on the Housing Stability Task force to assist with foreclosures, evictions, rentals/housing
 - Response
 - Tri-County continuing street outreach to inform on COVID and provide sanitation supplies; looking to see where Adams can fill gaps in current outreach
 - Looking into renting/purchasing motel rooms and existing community spaces
 - 500 cots/partitions available through emergency management office
 - Looking to include sanitation stations along trails
 - Is there a recommendation in the community for people at-risk/experiencing homelessness that are experiencing symptoms?
 - Tri-County suggests using state hotline, calling urgent cares in advance,
 - Changes in seasonal shelter operations?
 - Cold Weather Care operating out of motel, closing a week earlier due to costs
 - Severe Weather Action plan operating as-is
 - Access Housing is increasing rental assistance next week
 - Almost Home remains open in Brighton
- **Shelly McKittrick, City of Aurora**
 - City has daily 3:00pm COVID response meeting
 - City of Aurora projects it will receive 1.7 million ESG dollars
 - Shelters
 - Comitatus Crisis Center
 - Aurora Day Resource Center (7:30am-1:00pm)
 - Activated tonight for cold weather
 - Up to 50 individuals, enough space for social distancing
 - Two large tents setup outside with heat, handwashing, etc.
 - Breakfast served onsite
 - Afternoon case management appointments by meetings, limited staff
 - Gateway Domestic Violence Services operating as usual
 - Widespread uptick in DV and apprehension to seek services
 - Aurora Warms the Night
 - Operating without volunteers, still has staff
 - Ready to Work
 - Open and operating, not accepting new clients

- Arapahoe County securing a lease for a 120-room motel to serve as quarantine location
 - Need to figure out how to staff hotel, please contact with ideas
 - If quarantine exceeds two months, able to move to Excelsior Campus
 - Open to sharing space/costs with other communities
- Testing at Stride Community Health Center (3292 Peoria St Aurora, CO 80010)
 - Morning for healthcare providers, afternoon for everyone else
 - No known positive cases currently
 - Working with CU, Children's Hospital, and VA
 - Please connect with Shelley if there are high-risk individuals you know of who need to be moved to a safe, sheltered location
 - smckittr@auroragov.org
- **Cameron Shropshire, Arapahoe County**
 - Mainly focusing efforts on rental assistance and maintaining housing stability
- **Missy Mish, VA**
 - VA has mobile testing site as of yesterday outside of the VA, open to all veterans
 - VA lab has begun to process COVID tests
 - Actively outreaching 35 veterans with SSVF partners
 - Continuing intakes and case management to provide housing resources
 - Continuing to place veterans in permanent housing
 - Community Resources and Referral Center (3836 York St, Denver, CO 80205)
 - Open Monday - Friday 6:30am - 3:00pm
 - Phone: 303-294-5600
 - Call first to be screened before coming in-person
 - Showers remain open so that community can remain clean
 - Need support from community partners for quarantine solutions
- **Kristin Toombs, Division of Housing**
 - Website: www.cdola.colorado.gov/housing-covid19
 - Links specifically for housing and COVID information/resources
 - Partnering with emergency response at the state level to support coordinated response at the local level
 - Working on how to access FEMA public assistance to create non-congregate sheltering
 - Draft in progress by FEMA, able to reimburse non-congregate shelter costs
 - MUST receive approval before funding motel/sheltering projects in order to be reimbursed up to 75%
 - Connect with emergency/public health contacts
 - Q-re: Youth Statewide ACHY (Advisory Council on Homeless Youth)
 - Position recently vacated, program currently on hold
 - Medical-Surge Plan coming from the State Level for all individuals
 - When will the emergency eviction assistance fund from the state be operational? When will info be up on how it can be accessed by those needing rental assistance and parameters for eligibility?
 - Hope to have details within the next few days
 - Looking to use existing partners who do prevention work
 - Looking to cover all 64-counties, as well as mortgage assistance

- **Matt Meyer, Executive Director at MDHI**
 - Three priorities in COVID response
 - Continue Coordinated Entry/One Home
 - Must continue to get people housed
 - Email rebecca.mayer@mdhi.org with inquiries
 - Coordinate regional efforts and information flow
 - HMIS is important in communicating among providers and tracking
 - Contact MDHI for gaining access to HMIS and/or adapting HMIS to track COVID response
 - Distributing flex-fund/ESG dollars
 - Must join CoC and use HMIS to receive dollars
 - HMIS necessary to support tracking response
 - Working with ESG dollars, most flexibility
 - No flexibility with HUD planning/HMIS dollars yet
- **Jamie Rife, Director of Communications at MDHI**
 - Funding bill update
 - Has passed the Senate, headed to the House
 - No delays or changes expected
 - See NLIHC update on it [here](#)
 - Overall, the bill provides more than
 - \$12 billion in funding for HUD programs, including:
 - \$4 billion for Emergency Solutions Grants for homelessness assistance,
 - \$5 billion in Community Development Block Grants,
 - \$1.25 billion for the Housing Choice Voucher program,
 - \$1 billion for project-based rental assistance, \$685 million for public housing,
 - \$300 million for tribal nations,
 - \$65 million for Housing for Persons with AIDS,
 - \$50 million for Section 202 Housing for the Elderly, and
 - \$15 million for Section 811 Housing for Persons with Disabilities.
 - For individual stimulus:
 - \$1,200/pp up to AGI of \$75K and then decreases amount up to AGI of \$99K or \$2400/married couple up to \$150K
 - \$500/child
 - Appears it will be similar to 2008 stimulus payment
 - Based on 2019 taxes (if filed) or 2018 taxes
 - Not taxable income and must have SS# to qualify (those with a tax ID are not eligible)
 - **Diane Howald, MDHI**
 - Continues to compile regional updates, please email relevant agency/provider updates to diane.howald@mdhi.org
 - Signup for MDHI weekly newsletter [here](#) to receive updates
 - MHUW conference centers are closed at least through the end of April

- Coordinating Committee will continue to meet through Zoom
- **Coordinating Committee**
 - Angela Nelson's term as Committee Chair is complete (Thank you for everything Angie!)
 - Susie Street will remain Co-Chair
 - Looking to replace this position with a passionate, engaged member of the community who has been a member of the committee
 - People with lived experience highly encouraged
 - Contact diane.howald@mdhi.org for more information

Attendance

Adam Lyons (Thornton), Alix Midgley (Earthlinks), Angie Nelson (DRH), Ashley Dunn (Almost Home), Ben Nichols (Thornton), Benjamin Dunning (DHOL), Brianne Hanson, Cameron Shropshire (Arapahoe), Claire Clurman (MDHI BOD), Courtney Fischer (VOA), Diane Howald (MDHI Staff Lead), Elissa Hardy (Denver Public Library), Ellen Barton (ODM), Eugene Wade (CEPP), Heidi, Ian Fletcher (Wind Hover Impact), Isabella Villafana (DOC), James Sieffert (HAV-RMHS), Jamie Rife (MDHI), Jaylin Stotler (Thornton), Joanna Reynolds (Mile High Behavioral Healthcare), Jense, Jesse L. Parris (DHOL), Kate Skarbek (Westminster), Kathy Mulloy (Housing Now – SA), Kelli Barker (JeffCo), Kyla Moe (MDHI), Kyra Moon (SA), Lauren McClanahan (EOC), Layla Said (MDHI), Linda Barringer (Heading Home), Liz Stalnaker (Constituent Services), LynAnn Huizingh (Severe Weather Shelter Network), Matt Meyer (MDHI) Mike Malloy (CCH), Mary Putman, Matt Meyer (MDHI), Melissa Green (Bridge House), Missy Mish (VA), Molly Gamez (VOA), Phyllis Minter (RMHS), Randle Loeb (PAC), Rebecca Mayer (MDHI), Renee Crews (Denver Road Home), Sam Olson (Adams Co), Shelley McKittrick (Aurora), Sue Gilman (Bayaud), Synthonia Lee (RMHS), additional 7 phone numbers with no name