



HOMELESS SERVICES UPDATES

Downtown Austin Community Court Advisory Board
July 10, 2020

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INTERIM HOMELESS SERVICES OFFICER



Updates
from
Homeless
Services
Division

1. Upcoming report from
contracted national consultants

2. Motel Conversion Strategy
update

3. Budget considerations

4. COVID-19 response and RFAs

City Contracts for National Homelessness Consultants

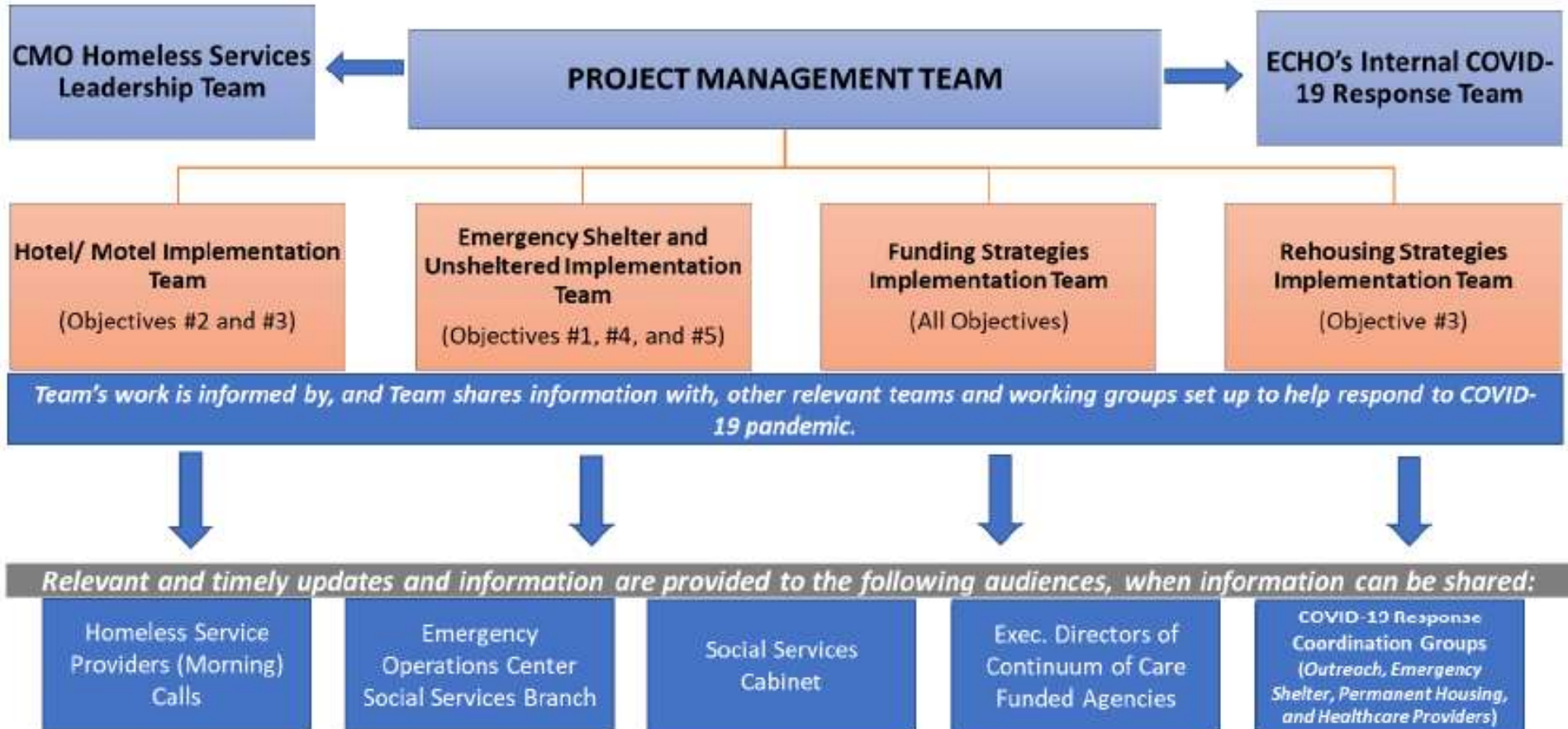
**Barbara Poppe &
Associates**

Report being released
in July 2020

Matthew Doherty

Assisting with
implementation of
report recommendations

AUSTIN'S COVID-19 HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRUCTURE (v 4-22-20)



Motel Conversion Strategy

May 6th update provided by Office of Real Estate Services & Neighborhood Housing and Community Development

- 300 unit goal (3-4 converted motels)
- Housing First approach to provide permanent supportive (PSH) housing
- Funding sources:
 - CDBG
 - GO/Housing Bonds
 - Certificate of Obligation
 - Other

Motel Conversion Strategy Update

2711 IH-35 South (formerly Rodeway Inn) purchased

- Repairs, mitigation and minor renovations
- Likely temporary use for emergency response to COVID-19

7400 IH-35 North

- Current lease to purchase agreement
- Operating as protective lodging for COVID-19
- Possible purchase August – September

Future acquisitions – property layout ready for PSH

Budget Considerations

- ❖ Homelessness is top priority for City Council
- ❖ COVID-19 having a significant economic and financial impact
- ❖ Public Safety funding is being discussed

Important Budget Dates

July 13	City Manager's proposed budget presentation (2pm)
July 23	Budget & tax rate public hearing
July 28	City Council Work Session
July 30	Budget & tax rate public hearing
Aug 4	Budget & tax rate public hearing
Aug 12-14	Budget adoption

COVID-19 Response & RFAs

4 Primary Response Areas

1. Hygiene resources for unsheltered individuals
2. Food/Water access for unsheltered individuals
3. Infection control protocols for congregate shelters / Planning
4. Isolation & Protective lodging (ProLodges)

1. Hygiene Resources for Unsheltered Individuals

- ❖ Public showers and restrooms in City parks / trails
- ❖ Portable toilets and handwashing stations in 20 areas
- ❖ Contracting with nonprofit to run mobile shower/hygiene trailers
- ❖ Violet Bag (trash pick-up) sites near high activity areas – daily service
- ❖ Face masks, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, hygiene products distributed

2. Food Access – Eating Apart Together (EAT)

❖ Shelf-Stable Food Distribution

- 1,000 weekly bags containing 5-6 days worth of food for unsheltered individuals outside downtown core
- 1,000 weekly bags containing 5-6 days worth of food for unsheltered individuals in the downtown core, and for recently housed individuals

❖ Also distributed in bags: dog food, hygiene supplies, feminine hygiene supplies, toilet paper, face masks, COVID-19 educational flyers and Census informational cards, drinking water

❖ Revolution Foods contract for prepared meals being distributed by nonprofit and faith-based agencies

3. Safety Protocols for Emergency Shelters

- Weekly meetings to share expert guidance and protocols from APH, CDC, DSHS, HCH, HUD and others
- Working with ECHO to assess all shelters
 - Determining how shelters are adhering to CDC protocols
 - Identifying gaps and resource needs – assisting with PPE, supplies
- Working with CommUnity Care and Dell Med School (Healthcare for the Homeless Team) on active surveillance testing

4. Isolation, Quarantine & Protective Lodging

Isolation Facilities (IsoFac) – Quarantine and isolation option for individuals who are under monitoring, under investigation, or have tested positive for COVID-19 and cannot safely self-isolate

Protective Lodging (ProLodge) - Temporary shelter options for people experiencing homelessness who are at high risk of severe complications if they become COVID-19 positive and for individuals experiencing homelessness being discharged from IsoFac who meet CDC high risk criteria

Isolation, Quarantine & Protective Lodging

IsoFac

Capacity for 204 guests (capacity fluctuates)

ProLodges

ProLodge 1 110 guests (at capacity)

ProLodge 2 65 guests (at capacity)

ProLodge 3 55 guests (at capacity)

ProLodge 4 65 guests (at capacity)

(limited rooms held for high risk IsoFac discharges)

Questions?

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www.austintexas.gov/homelessness