

## Homeless Services Provider Call 11/5/20 – Agenda

- Welcome - Jessica
- Information and Updates:
  - Public Health Update - Matt
    - Statewide system – Santa Cruz County moved to the orange tier 2 weeks ago
    - COVID+ numbers going up again – 293 active cases in the community, huge jump
      - ~20 new cases a day – if this continues, Santa Cruz County will not be in the orange tier for long
    - Significant outbreak going on at an assisted medical facility -fragile population
      - Public Health is there trying to contain the outbreak
      - Will likely drive up the numbers of persons in hospitals
    - Santa Cruz County has a relatively low fatality rate – good news
      - Hospitals are not being overwhelmed
      - Hospitalization rate remains low
      - County has less than a 1% fatality rate – much better than the rest of the country
    - Important to maintain our public health protective measures
      - Especially as we move into the holidays
    - A couple of small scares this week at shelters
      - The response of shelter staff has been incredibly quick
      - Staff is more at risk to our clients than vice versa – we need to think about how our interactions during the holidays will affect our health and that of our clients
    - Continue to see more cases in South County
      - Where more essential workers live that must go to work
      - More larger families in smaller spaces
    - Homeless service providers have been doing an excellent job preventing outbreaks
    - Testing is more available in our community – no longer in a rationing place
  - Outreach to unsheltered persons/HOSS+ – Joey
    - Do all the things that will protect us and others – masks, wash hands, meeting outdoors

- State and CDC put out guidance regarding celebrating holidays – gives high/low risk activities
- COVID fatigue – need to still take preventative measures
- Trying to provide guidance on safety during outreach including providing guidance on encampments
- Outreach workers trying to find new places for encampment residents being moved as well as providing supplies
- Making sure that people living outside have what they need to stay safe as it gets colder
- Working on protocols to establish a mobile health clinic in early 2021
  - Incorporate street medicine model
- Have adequate testing supplies
  - Get results in 24 – 72 hours
- Will start doing rapid testing
  - Get results in ~15 minutes
  - Only for people with COVID symptoms
  - Hoping to roll out pilot soon at HPHP
  - Not good for surveillance testing
  - Good for shelter outbreaks
  - Medical assistants can administer
  - Hoping to get tests within next week or two
  - Joey will provide additional information
  - Call 454-2080 to schedule a test at HPHP
- Isolation/Quarantine Shelter (motel) Update – Monica
- Hotel for persons who are medically vulnerable to COVID-19 – Jen
  - Fireside has been filling up – 5<sup>th</sup> IQ hotel
  - Housing 212 people in the 5 hotels
  - Have mental health support for hotel participants – have seen an increase in support
  - People are now participating in social distancing groups
- Supporting existing shelters update – Brooke
  - Changed bi-weekly shelter meeting to Thursday 11/12, 9:30 – 10:30 am
  - Please get in HMIS information ASAP
  - Request for help in repairing credit history

- Send Brooke an e-mail if you have resources
    - Developing checklists for shelters
  - Expanded Shelter update – Tom
    - Vets Halls – 90 people in shelter, a handful of spots open
    - Now have shelter managers and assistant managers for both Vets halls
      - Good news that there is management on site!
  - Benchlands - Adam
  - TAY shelter update – Christine/Shebreh
    - Focused on preparing to new site
    - New site at the Cabrillo College campus
      - Working on logistics to move mid-December
    - Have 16 people at the site
    - Same process for getting on the waiting list
    - Hired a new Assistant Manager
  - Q & A – Jessica/all
    - Debbie Bates, AFC – clients requested fans in shelter, is that a concern re: spreading virus
      - Matt –
        - Ventilation is important in preventing the spread of disease
        - Concern about circulating trapped air
        - Will be reaching out to Environmental Health for additional guidance for winter
        - Guidance for shelter is being updated; will include ventilation
    - Serg Kagno – the County is having a homeless study session with Focus Strategies on Tuesday, November 12th
- Next call with be Thursday, November 19 at 10:00 am