

City-County COVID Recovery Working Groups

A coordinated COVID response

COVID-19 Community Action Groups

- Announced by Judge Wolff on Mayor Nirenberg on 3/30/2020
- “The COVID-19 Community Action working groups will address immediate needs resulting from the pandemic, recommend measures for long-term recovery and identify resources to assist community rebuilding efforts.”
- Working Groups:
 - Federal & State Advocacy
 - Philanthropy
 - Food Security & Shelter
 - Business & Employment
 - Social Services

Social Services Working Group Priorities

- Domestic Violence
- Substance Use
- Mental Health
- Digital Divide
- Evictions
- Education
- Senior Services

Substance Use Areas of Concern

- Shift to telehealth
 - Restraints on grants in terms of administrative costs
- “Relapse trigger of the century”
- Stigma
- Reduction of philanthropic funding of delegate agencies
- PPE costs for patients and providers

Mental Health Areas of Concern

- Collective trauma
- Massive increase in demand by patients of all types of payers
- Shift to telehealth
- Reimbursement for telehealth
- Regulatory flexibility to provide care
- Mental health services for health care workers

Behavioral Health Recommendations

1. Legislative and regulatory advocacy for flexibility for telehealth reimbursement
2. Funding for PPE
3. Funding for 24-hour recovery hotline
 - Partnership between Rise Recovery, Alpha Home and Lifetime Recovery through United Way
4. Funding for CHCS mobile crisis outreach
 - Adults and children
5. Outpatient treatment for substance use disorder

CARES Act Social Services Funding: \$4.5 Million

- Social Services agencies who incurred expenses as a result of COVID response
 - PPE
 - Cost of digital infrastructure
 - Technology-based case management
 - Staff training for COVID procedures

- \$750,000 earmarked for substance abuse

Other developments

- July 9, 2020: Commissioner Justin Rodriguez announced funding for following mental health initiatives at daily briefing with Mayor Nirenberg:
 - \$253,000 for CHCS mobile outreach teams
 - Mental health services for health care workers