Convening a Community of Care to Respond to the COVID-19 Crisis

Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless Program (ACHCH) and the roles of Health Center-County-Community Emergency Coordination

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Homeless Health Centers are uniquely situated to lead effective regional disaster/emergency response to protect and meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. HCH providers can serve to bridge gaps between shelter & services providers, community members, advocates, and other vulnerable populations with health department delivery; City, County, State and Federal agencies, building trust and developing effective procurement of care delivery, governance and supplies while supporting the persistent precarity and everyday disasters that confront people experiencing homelessness. Of critical importance is development of trusted relationships, and a sense of collective effort that includes all members of the continuum of clients and community services providers. These trusting relationships are not “planned” – they emerge from ongoing efforts and engagement in response to the persistent precarity and everyday disasters that confront people experiencing homelessness.

In this poster Alameda County HCH traces the development of our collective COVID-19 response in Alameda County. Alongside the curve of some key elements of ACHCH’s work in partnership with local government and community partners.

Isolation and Quarantine

ACHCH staff worked with local and national partners to develop isolation and quarantine policies and procedures and a handbook. This handbook was shared online and used by counties across the country.

Shelter Decompression and Safer Ground

ACHCH worked with shelter providers to decompress and deepen high-risk measures.

Testing and Rapid Response

ACHCH worked closely with community partners to set up on site testing centers.

Isolation and Quarantine Hotels

ACHCH community partners reviewed and improved COVID-19 response plans. Housing providers reviewed the protocols. The Peer-led COVID Decompression (PCCD) project was a successful rapid response. Our coordinated freestanding emergency department services (FES) were made available to our clients as a result of this effort.

I&Q and Safer Ground as Housing

ACHCH works with local partners to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Rapid Response COVID Testing Team

ACHCH and community partners developed a rapid COVID testing in Alameda County.

Sustain Community Response

ACHCH and community partners developed a rapid COVID testing in Alameda County.

Isolation and Quarantine (I&Q) hotel

ACHCH led rapid on-the-ground testing for community providers.

Testing and Rapid Response

ACHCH led rapid on-the-ground testing for community providers.

Sustain Community Response

ACHCH led rapid on-the-ground testing for community providers.

Vaccination Efforts

Initiate Vaccination Efforts

Practitioners and vaccination providers in Alameda County.

Recovery and Readiness

OMNICORN SURGE!

All hands-on deck to maintain a containment vs. vaccination

Distribution of Rapid Home Test Kits

ACHCH distributed rapid test kits to homeless & non-homeless populations throughout the county.

Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy

ACHCH carried out focus groups and QI calls at all test and services sites.

Improving Shelter Environments

ACHCH supported development of community-wide TTT protocols.

ACHCH led the testing of homeless community and providers.

Anti-Viral COVID Treatment

ACHCH led the testing of homeless community and providers.

International Seafarers Vaccination

ACHCH partners with community providers to vaccinate international seafarers.

Hire/Train Vaccine Ambassadors

People with lived experience play a huge role in ensuring vaccine uptake.

ACHCH Health Center READINESS

Achimpossible task to maintain a containment vs. vaccination

Readiness and Initial Response

ACHCH Health Center READINESS

President’s Priority and Emergency Disasters

Isolation and Quarantine

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Chronology of Alameda County Homeless COVID Cases Among People Experiencing Homelessness by Week/Month 2020-2022

ACHCH would like to salute all of our community partners who worked successfully to protect and support the thousands of people experiencing homelessness throughout Alameda County during the COVID pandemic of 2020-2022.