

Updates and Discussion

Committee Updates:

- Evictions Moratorium – The City of San Antonio implemented a \$25 million Risk Mitigation fund to assist with rent, mortgage, utilities, groceries, internet and other needs. Additionally, the current eviction moratorium has been extended through May 18 and courts will not consider eviction filings until June 1.
- The City of San Antonio and Bexar County will work on development of a comprehensive plan to address evictions and tenant supports. Bexar County will also explore what regulatory authority is in place to expand measures and advocate for stronger federal support for tenants.
- Additional opportunities to support residents and tenants through ordinance action to implement new and expanded programs was proposed. The committee provided broad support for the below two recommendations to be forwarded for San Antonio City Council consideration:
 - Right to Cure: Requests San Antonio City Council adopt policy that allows for a 60 day right to cure to allow tenants to become current on their rent. Similar policies have been adopted by the Cities of Austin, Dallas. There have been local instances of landlords violating the eviction moratorium.
 - Right to Counsel: Requests San Antonio City Council expand the Right to Counsel program. This program helps to protect tenants and provide them with a sense of their rights given the current situation.

Additional Updates on Committee Priority Areas:

- Undocumented Resident Resources: The subcommittee joined larger immigration meeting group hosted by the City of San Antonio Immigrant Liaison. This committee continues their work related to policy recommendations to increase access to services and communication on resources.
- Education: Coordination and discussion on distance learning continue. One issue identified is that the lack of widespread digital access and resources has meant that teachers are continuing to try to provide multi-media assistance as a stop gap measure, often utilizing their own funds to provide materials. Additional identified high priority needs relate to the reopening of businesses and the lack of school and childcare resources for families.
- Senior Services: Based on feedback from the subcommittee and larger community concerns, the Department of Human Services, San Antonio Housing Authority and San Antonio Food Bank have worked together to expand access to food resources for seniors and underage disabled individuals. Additionally, based on a concern by the group for seniors who may be homeless, the Department of Human Services has ensured that homeless seniors are considered a high-risk population and have access to temporary hotel housing.
- Domestic Violence: Subcommittee has coordinated with Community Collaborative on Domestic Violence (CCDV) to develop uniform and targeted recommendations in alignment with plans previously identified in the comprehensive plan. Judge Diaz presented to the Committee on behalf of the CCDV and shared policy recommendations across targeted workgroups: health care, judicial, nonprofit, and prosecution. The CCDV will conduct a COVID 19 assessment and reevaluate plans considering current funding, gaps, and needs. Domestic Violence Town Hall will be hosted in May along with new PSAs to highlight current resources.
- Behavioral Health: The subcommittee has identified several priorities for recommendation development, including: expansion of tele-health opportunities for substance abuse and general mental health counseling; expansion of existing cross-sector pilot projects that have integrated mental health ecosystem in school district environment; and services that are available in multiple languages. The Center for Health Care Services also shared that they anticipate receipt of FEMA funding for crisis services for those impacted by COVID 19.
- Asset Funding: Subcommittee is focused on development of strategies that are defensive (short-term) and offensive (long-term). Recommendations will also focus on the opportunity to develop an infrastructure to create a comprehensive asset protection and building system. San Antonio Housing Authority expressed interest in exploring partnerships to work with families in housing.

COVID-19 Community Action Working Group
Social Services Committee – May 1, 2020

Action Items

- Moving forward, subcommittee policy recommendations will be provided to Commissioner Calvert and Councilman Trevino for dissemination the Wednesday prior to Friday Committee meetings.

Item	Status	Lead
Subcommittee reports and recommendations	Committee members will review policy recommendations in advance of weekly meetings. Final policy recommendations are due May 6 th .	All Subcommittees
Brief Committee on City of San Antonio Language Policy	Carlos Valenzuela, GPA, will be invited to discuss the language policy at the next meeting.	City of San Antonio

Referrals to Other Working Groups

- Food Security and Shelter Working Group:
 - Committee has provided general, broad support for City Council consideration of implementation of a Right to Cure policy and expansion of the existing Right to Council program. An update on this item will be provided to the Food Security and Shelter Working Group.
 - Committee has asked for the Food Security and Shelter Working Group to consider expansion of home delivered meals and food commodities to seniors.
 - The Committee has requested the Food Security and Shelter Working Group provide a list of their policy recommendations to help inform Social Services Working Committee recommendations.
- State and Federal Advocacy Working Group:
 - Committee has asked for the State and Federal Advocacy Workgroup to assist with advocacy related to the reopening of businesses and the lack of school and childcare resources for working families.
 - Additional advocacy recommendations include focusing on directing federal resources to address digital divide issues in the community.