MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

Presented by
Sergeant Steve Wick
Homeless Outreach Team
Homeless Outreach Team

To improve the quality of life for all Houstonians by combining police and community resources in an effort to reduce the number of people who are living on the streets.
Specialized team of Houston police officers and mental health caseworkers

Engage in street outreach to homeless community

Relationship focused

Goal to reduce number of people living on streets by helping them overcome personal obstacles

Working relationship with homeless, government agencies and provider community
HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

Sergeant Stephen F. Wick
Senior Police Officer Colin Mansfield
Senior Police Officer Gerardo Alaniz
Officer Janice Terry
Officer Karan Dhooper
Officer John Vogelsang
Officer Sheldon Theragood
Metro Officer Theresa Guerrero

The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD
/PATH
Case Manager Deirdre Kimble-Charles
Case Manager Cami West-Puentes
Case Manager Ashley Mullins
HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD Partnership
HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

How we help?

- Bridge the divide between the homeless and help.
- Figure out the why of a person’s homelessness.
- Works with agencies to remove barriers and help homeless re-integrate into society.
- “Shepherding them through the system”
From the desk of
Stephen F. Wick
Tuesday, October 11, 2016

To:
Whom it may concern

Subject:
Identification of Terry Lamonte

The listed identification on this document was obtained from the Houston Police Department's Records Management System.

Terry Lamonte
B/M 08-16-1963, 5'06, 150 lbs., Blk/Brn
Texas Identification Card #22768
Expires: 08-16-2018

Sergeant
Stephen F. Wick
Homeless Outreach Team
Mental Health Division

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. My e-mail at work is Steve.Wick@HoustonPolice.org

This document has been subscribed and affirmed before me in the County of Harris, State of Texas, this 11th day of October, 2016.

Charla Woodard
Notary's Signature & Seal

CHARLAH C. WOODARD
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF TEXAS
MY COMM. EXP. 1/28/19
HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

Government Agencies:

- Houston Police Department
- Harris County Sheriff
- Veterans Affairs
- Department of Public Safety
- Harris County District Attorney
- Bureau of Vital Statistics
HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

Challenges
LOOK FOR THE BEAUTY
WITHIN THE MOST FRIGHTENING
Use of synthetic cannabinoids
HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

Curtis H.

- Works for handouts
- Delusional
- Real identity unknown
- Team developed relationship with Curtis
- Health declined
- Hospital transports as “John Doe”
- Finally learned his identity
- Enable Curtis to be placed in personal care home
- Social Security benefits
- Curtis is now happy, reasonably healthy and productive
Felicia

- T.B.I because of auto/pedestrian. Accident
- Incontinent and wheelchair bound.
- History of mental illness, labile affect, no insight into need for treatment
- Dozens of hospitalizations and A.P.S. referrals through the years
- Referred to Harris County Guardianship but needed capacity assessment.
- Transported to Ben Taub Hospital on an E.D.O., officer spent 13 hrs. only to release her when officer left.
- Found her again and able to get her to voluntary go to a new psychiatric facility.
- Had a melt down at facility and had to be rerouted to Houston N/W medical center stabilized and sent back to Cypress Creek Hospital.
- Dr. Brooker from Cypress Creek did a capacity assessment and referred her for guardianship.
- Transferred to assisted living facility.
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Teresa

- Amputee confined to a wheel chair
- Fiercely independent but paranoid
- Refuses to acknowledge her mental illness
- The team gradually built a relationship in order to help her overcome her barriers
- Because of her paranoia she is difficult to help
- Housed on two occasions but she moves out
- Currently living on the streets but we will continue to try to help her.
Living under bridge next to bayou for decades.

Delusional—waiting on McDonalds millions

Treated infected foot wound with Preparation H. No insight

Positive TB test, H.H.H. said he needed to be hospitalized.

Emergency Room for 5 hrs., HOT advocated, ER tried to send home thrice, Eventually admitted.

HOT worked with hospital so Robert wouldn’t be discharged to streets.

HOT assisted with move to personal care home.
Quintus is 75 years old, going blind, and living under the bridge.

Got sick, eye sight deteriorating, unable to maintain hygiene.

Helped with ID, SSI, Medical Issues, Banking

Finally able to get him housed.
- HOT received report of lady living in a shopping cart.
- Anxious and difficult to engage.
- Depression with psychosis, delusional issues
- HOT advocated
- Turning Point but mental health issues made situation challenging
- Mental health issues stabilized
- Personal care home
- Stable/Apt./Car

**Darlene**
Thought to be intoxicated and transported to the Sobering Center

Mental illness recognized by HOT and diverted to NPC

Approximately a month later, a smiling Matthew approached officers

His old boss in Indiana was sending him a bus ticket and said that he could have his old job back

Thanked HOT for intervening and helping him turn his life around
Homeless Outreach Team

Bob

- Honorably discharged veteran
- Chronic alcoholic for more than ten years
- HOT began working with Bob on his issues
- Bob decided that he was ready to change his life.
- Detoxing so bad unable to do paperwork at VA
- Traded unhealthy addiction for healthy.
- Started to run, fun runs first, then marathons. Ran six last year, including Boston and Woodland’s Ironman.
- Three years, clean and sober
HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

How to Contact Us

Mental Health Division/Homeless Outreach Team
150 N. Chenevert Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77002

832-394-4200 (Office)
832-394-4202 (Fax)
HPD.HOT@Houstonpolice.org
QUESTIONS?