MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

Homeless Outreach Team

Presented by
Sergeant Steve Wick
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

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

Relationship focused

Working relationship with homeless, government agencies and provider community
Homeless Outreach Team

Sergeant Stephen F. Wick
Senior Police Officer Jaime Giraldo
Senior Police Officer Colin Mansfield
Officer Janice Terry
Officer Sheldon Theragood
Metro Officer Theresa Guerrero

The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD

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 can we help?

- Builds relationships with homeless
- Allows team to understand individuals’ reasons for 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 #227
Expires: 08-16-2018

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.

[Signature]
Notary’s Signature & Seal
CHARLAH C. WOODARD
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF TEXAS
MY COMM. EXP. 12/9/19
Homeless Outreach Team

Who we work with:

- SEARCH Homeless Services
- Lords of the Street
- Palmer Way Station
- Star of Hope
- Salvation Army
- Healthcare for the Homeless
- Beacon
- Downtown Business District
- Coalition for the Homeless
- Open Door Mission
- U.S. Vets
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

Camps
Kush

Use of synthetic cannabinoids
Homeless Outreach Team

- Works for handouts
- Delusional
- Real identity unknown
- Unsure how he survived
- Health declined
- Spent more time in back of Dollar Store
- Hospital transports as “John Doe”
- Team developed relationship with Curtis
- Finally learned his identity
- Enable Curtis to be placed in personal care home
- Social Security benefits
- Curtis is now happy, reasonably healthy and productive
Homeless Outreach Team
Brenda B.

- Lived in Hermann Park for more than a decade
- Delusional about her condition
- Well known to park visitors, subject of urban legends
- Team began to outreach and the building of a relationship
- Attempted link with healthcare and housing
- Brenda attacked in park and hospitalized
- Finally able to get housed and linked with services
Homeless Outreach Team

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 to continue to try to help her
Hospital discharges wheel-chair bound man to the streets

Team attempts to help but he politely refuses

Multiple organizations involved

Phone conference with Dr. Buck/Dr. Shaw

Possible dementia diagnosis

Transported, EDO, Got hospital involved

Personal care home
Living under bridge next to bayou for decades

Delusional - waiting on McDonalds millions

Treated infected foot wound with Preparation H

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.

UofH Eye Institute surgery, Connect DARS Blind Services.

Currently working on housing.
Cold, wet winter

HOT received report of lady living in a shopping cart

Darlene was very anxious and difficult to engage

Several attempts before she would trust us to get her help

Depression with psychosis delusional issues

HOT advocated on her behalf Harris Center for psychiatric meds

Turning Point but psychiatric issues made situation challenging

Mental health issues stabilized

Personal care home

One year later: apartment and car
Homeless Outreach Team Matthew C.

- 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 and thanked
- Matthew said he was stable
- 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
- Two years, clean and sober
- Manages Sober house for the VA
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