

## **The People Concern Malibu Outreach Team**

February 2023 Report

### **Outcomes**

In February 2023, the total number of contacts made by the outreach team was 304, with 64 unduplicated contacts. 4 individuals were contacted in permanent/temporary housing or relocation. Of the 64 unduplicated contacts, 6 were new contacts, with 3 becoming repeat contacts. There are currently 52 contacts considered in various stages of engagement, and 12 are refusing services at this point. The outreach team continues to contact these individuals with the goal of getting them engaged in the housing process.

### **Success Story**

The outreach team first met Ct. J.F. on a cold and rainy day at the Malibu Library. The VFC team quickly introduced us to J.F. who at the time was very psychotic and in distress. She was not able to hold a conversation during this time as she would blurt out random or irrelevant words and phrases in response to some of our questions. What we were able to determine was that she needed help, she was very vulnerable, and the weather was very inhospitable to be surviving out on the streets.

Miraculously enough, J.F. was able to identify herself, although not easily, and that she wanted to accept treatment offered by the VFC team. An antipsychotic medication known as Invega was administered to her at this time. The VFC warned us about the side effects of this medication, which causes drowsiness, which could potentially make the client even more vulnerable than what she already was. To avoid the potential of anyone taking advantage of our female client during this vulnerable time we offered her an opportunity to stay in a motel over that weekend where she could safely recover and be sheltered from the cold and rain. The client gladly accepted our offer to put her in motel.

J.F. was extremely grateful and appreciative for everyone's efforts in helping her during this difficult time. The outreach team followed up with J.F. to see how she was doing following the medication. The client was more lucid and organized with her thoughts. The psychotic behavior and speech seemed to have dissipated over the days, although not completely, but significantly enough to at least allow safer autonomy in the streets. After all our efforts, the outreach team succeeded in building a bond of trust, compassion, and respect for the dignity of the client. And because of this, J.F. is now working with the outreach team productively to find her healthy and housed.

### **Community Interaction**

The team continues to work with the Malibu community including: city council, CART, local churches, Venice Family Clinic (VFC) and the Sheriff's Department. Through these relationships we have received help with locating and assisting the unhoused.

The team continues to work closely with several LA County agencies such as the VA, Venice Family Clinic, LAHSA, DMH and St. Josephs in order to provide a wide array of services and housing opportunities for our clients.

Also, a couple observations: VFC and the outreach team had an exceptional month assisting clients with psychiatric needs. We have also been experiencing a slight uptick in interest from the public while out assisting clients.

### **Next Steps:**

We are making strategic use of the new interim housing beds to target acutely vulnerable individuals. We are eagerly awaiting the imminent lease up of multiple clients, several of whom are veterans. We are hoping to collaborate more with the DMH HOME team and develop a list for eventual CARE Court referrals.