

The People Concern Malibu Outreach Team

May 2023 Report

Outcomes

In May 2023, the total number of contacts made by the outreach team was 399, with 87 unduplicated contacts. 10 individuals were contacted in permanent or temporary housing. Of the 87 unduplicated contacts, 14 were new contacts, with 5 of them becoming repeat contacts. There are currently 56 contacts considered in various stages of engagement, and 31 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

KeJa is an older male client who currently resides outdoors near the Malibu Library. For several months, KeJa has been under the radar of the Malibu Outreach team. Due to his age, declining health, and inability to care for himself, the team decided to prioritize an intervention with him. In the past, numerous attempts were made to engage with the client to provide services and build a relationship with the client, but to no avail, the team was unable to make any progress mostly due to the client's inability to form coherent speech and to genuinely articulate his wants and needs. Instead, the team was met with incoherent phrases of a delusional nature. Any talks of housing or services were immediately dismissed with the claims of already owning a home, denying his homelessness, and being on active duty with the "Secret Service." The team was left with making two difficult decisions: placing the client on a medical hold or one final attempt to orchestrate a plan to allow the client to naturally begin the process of seeking help.

The team referred the client to the Venice Family Clinic (VFC) street medicine outreach team. After assessing his health, the VFC team offered the client an Abilify (anti-psychotic) injection. To all of our surprise, the client accepted. Not only was the client willing to engage with the doctors he was also willing to accept treatment! It was at this moment, when the outreach team knew there would be hope of KeJa getting the help he deserves and desperately needs.

The outreach team checked in with the client daily, shortly after the medication. Over the course of a few weeks, the client had noticeable improvements in his demeanor, speech, and mood. The team, once again, offered services to which, this time, the client accepted. The client wanted to go to the DPSS and Social Security Office. However, the client realized that he reeked of urine and wanted to clean up before going into any public office. The outreach team offered a motel stay to which the client accepted. After his stay, the team transported the client to the DPSS and Social Security Office where they discovered new information on KeJa's past.

KeJa was, in fact, in a nursing facility, was appointed a public guardian by the court, and was receiving social security benefits. Somewhere along the line and for whatever reason, KeJa had left this facility and became homeless in the streets of Malibu.

With this new information, the team can now create a plan to get KeJa off of the streets. Although this is still a work in progress the Outreach team has made some major progress with this client which is a huge success!

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 to provide a wide array of services and housing opportunities for our clients.

Next Steps:

The outreach team will continue to prioritize identifying and assisting clients that may qualify for permanent housing solutions using the "Ross Fund".