

The People Concern Malibu Outreach Team

June 2023 Report

Outcomes

In June 2023, the total number of contacts made by the outreach team was 333, with 66 unduplicated contacts. 10 individuals were contacted in permanent or temporary housing. Of the 55 unduplicated contacts, 2 were new contacts, with 1 of them becoming repeat contacts. There are currently 38 contacts considered in various stages of engagement, and 17 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

DiCe is a female client who was staying alongside the wall, between the sand and the parking lot at Zuma Beach, in a small makeshift encampment. The Malibu Outreach team first got wind of the potentially homeless woman by the CART team, Sherriff, and Public Safety Liaison, who described her as a “teary eyed” and vulnerable woman who was staying out in Zuma beach. They also mentioned that she seemed nice and friendly but, in conversation she would drift in her speech, into unintelligible tangents that would leave the listener confused and dumbfounded. This hinted at a potential mental health concern. With all of this information in mind, the team set off to Zuma Beach to locate and engage this peculiar and enigmatic woman.

The team arrived at the northern end of Zuma Beach where it was rumored she was staying. At first, the team was unable to locate her as she was nowhere in sight. However, upon further inspection of the area, the team discovered her small but rather interesting encampment. It was against the wall and contained folded blankets, propped up wooden sticks, bags, and a bunch of various little items sprinkled around the encampment such as feathers, seashells, and stones. The team knew that they were on the right track and that this encampment must have belonged to the fabled woman. The team scouted the immediate vicinity and spotted a woman sitting alone by the wall not fifty yards away. They were sure this was the woman they were searching for and began to approach her.

At first contact, the team introduced themselves and confirmed that she was in fact DiCe, the client that they were referred to by the collaborative teams’ efforts. After a short introduction, the team began to listen to DiCe as she began to tell them her story. At times, she would drift away in her speech and speak in a low voice, mumbling to herself as she brought her gaze into another direction, and then return her attention back to the team and continue on with her story. She would also inform them that there were voices or sounds that she would hear and would often repeat what they would say. After a long and productive conversation, through active listening and withholding judgement, the team demonstrated that they were there to support and help her. The team was able to connect with the client, earn her trust, and referred her to the Venice Family Clinic (VFC) Street Medicine Outreach team.

In the days leading up to her appointment with the VFC, the team would bring the client lunch sacks from the Malibu lunch service and regularly check in with her to see how she was doing and provide her with supplies such as hygiene items, socks, and underwear. This allowed the client to maintain her confidence in the team and reinforce the relationship between the client and the team. The team finally introduced the client to the VFC team, where they would perform assessments to determine both her mental and physical health status. The VFC team then recommended an antipsychotic injection to the client due to her mental health status to which the client eventually concluded that

such a medication would benefit herself and accepted the recommendation. She also mentioned to the team that she wanted to go into rehab due to her addiction to multiple substances.

In the following days, DiCe had shown a significant improvement in her wellbeing and speech. She had also reiterated that she was interested in going into a rehab for treatment and detox. The Malibu Outreach team and the VFC team worked together on getting her admitted into a local rehab, where she could find the help that she needed, and be safe from the dangerous realities of living outside on the streets especially as a woman with a mental health and substance abuse disorder. The team provided safe transportation to the rehab and supported her all the way through the intake process. As the team finished the warm handoff and was about to depart, the client DiCe became very emotional and was very thankful to the team and everyone involved for helping her get through this very challenging time in her life. DiCe is now currently in rehab and in the right direction to becoming 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 to provide a wide array of services and housing opportunities for our clients.

Next Steps:

The outreach team is excited to welcome Christopher Green to our team. Christopher will take on the roll as Housing Navigator and will focus on identifying and assisting clients that may qualify for permanent and transitional housing solutions using the "Ross Fund" and other resources available.