

# The People Concern Malibu Outreach Team

## January 2022 Report

### Narrative

#### Outcomes

In January 2022, the total number of contacts made by the outreach team was 75, with 38 unduplicated contacts. 1 individual was contacted in permanent or temporary housing. Of the 38 unduplicated contacts, 6 were new contacts, with 4 of them becoming repeat contacts. There are currently 125 individuals on the streets of Malibu that have been previously engaged. 62 are considered in various stages of engagement, and 63 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

##### M.L.

On any given day, from the Palisades to Malibu, you can find him walking down PCH or sitting at a bench or bus stop. A gentle giant and extremely hard to miss, ML has been on the streets of Malibu for a number of years now. Soft spoken and kind, ML has often refused services offered to him and has struggled with getting his mental health under control. That all changed over the past couple months as outreach workers were determined to find a way to reach ML and make progress with him. Finally, because of their consistency, determination and persistence, outreach workers made headway and were able to engage ML like never before. Through these engagements, outreach workers were able to gain the trust of ML and ultimately linked him to services with Venice Family Clinic (VFC). Doctors with VFC were able to properly diagnose and treat ML's mental health condition and in turn, offer him a chance to stabilize and finally sleep in a bed for a few weeks. Although the work is not yet done, progress has been made with ML and he now has an opportunity to maintain stability through treatment with service providers and outreach workers to ensure he has the resources available to him to continue making progress. Outreach workers will continue to work with ML to ensure that all his needs are met and he is stable and permanently housed.

### Community Interaction

Members of the Malibu outreach team were invited to meet with and have lunch with The People Concern's (TPC) Community Relations Officer and a local Malibu resident whom is heavily invested with the homeless population. Outreach workers were asked to provide some insight on their daily activities and how it has effected the lives of their clients and community alike. The resident also shared stories of how she has engaged with many of the Malibu clients and how her relationship with them has allowed her to have a better perspective of homelessness and the many barriers that they face. At the conclusion of the meeting, the resident advised that she would like to be more involved and was provided information on the taskforce and upcoming community forums. Additionally, the resident made a generous donation to TPC and efforts made to end homelessness. Connections such as these are critical whereas the work of the outreach workers are not just to serve the homeless population but also educate local resident and business owners alike. TPC's Outreach team is dedicated to continue making connections with locals in an effort to spread awareness of homelessness and create positive relationships with everyone whom is invested.

### Next Steps

It's no secret. The rise in drug use across the nation and our region continues to rise without any sign of slowing down. With this rise, there has also been an increase in fatal overdoses whereas fentanyl is now being used in not just heroin but methamphetamines as well. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 80-100 times

stronger than morphine and often laced with other drugs to create a stronger, more euphoric affect. Likewise, a variety of other drugs such as LSD, crack cocaine, marijuana and alcohol, among others, have also plagued our streets and have had a negative effect on the clientele in which we serve.

In an effort to curb the increase in fatalities and provide clients whom have struggled with addiction an opportunity for success; outreach workers are exploring the potential to put together a "Drug Treatment Fair" much like we have seen with previous "Connect Days". As outreach workers, we understand the sensitivity this may bring to the community, however, we also have a moral obligation to provide and connect services to those most in need. Albeit the groundwork has yet to be laid, we believe that such an event can be coordinated and conducted as early as spring of this year.