

MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

November 17, 2017

*Presented by
Sergeant Steve Wick*



Homeless Outreach Team





HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

Mission Statement

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.



HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

Defined

- ❖ 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



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"



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Government Agencies :

- ❖ Houston Police Department
- ❖ Harris County Sheriff
- ❖ Veterans Affairs
- ❖ Department of Public Safety
- ❖ Harris County District Attorney
- ❖ Bureau of Vital Statistics





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Camps





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Challenges

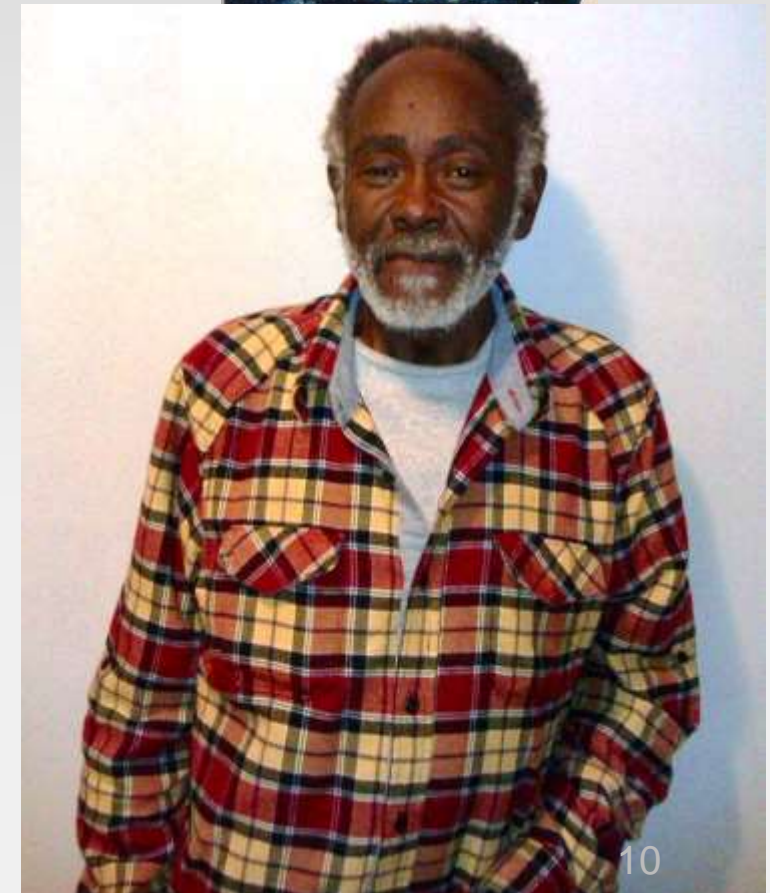




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Curtis H.

- ❖ Works for handouts
- ❖ Delusional
- ❖ Real identity unknown
- ❖ Team developed relationship with Curtis
- ❖ Health declined
- ❖ Hospital transports as “John Doe”
- ❖ Finally learned his identity
- ❖ Enable Curtis to be placed in personal care home
- ❖ Social Security benefits
- ❖ Curtis is now happy, reasonably healthy and productive





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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.





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Darlene

- ❑ 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, fibroid tumors
- ❑ HOT advocated on her behalf Harris Center for psyc. meds
- ❑ Turning Point but psyc. issues made situation challenging
- ❑ Mental health issues stabilized
- ❑ Personal care home
- ❑ One year later apartment and car





HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

How to Contact Us

**Mental Health Division / Homeless
Outreach Team**

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832-394-4200 (Office)

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QUESTIONS?

