

**Oahu Outreach-Emergency Shelter Provider Meeting
April 8 2021**

Call to Order/Client Success Stories

- Recent night outreach at Piano Park and the general area. Another community group in the area "COVID Care group." There was a person previously assessed for housing but primary language Korean so had been difficult communicating. One of the people in the COVID Care group spoke Korean and was able to help make the connection to services that night. Importance of collaboration, especially with non-traditional outreach providers and community members.

Government Agency Updates

- DHS SSD
 - Daisy: As mentioned on the last meeting, we do have some money for former foster youth who aged out of the system but are eligible for additional supportive services. In process of creating announcement for how to access these funds. We are collaborating to figure out how to better serve unsheltered youth.
 - Lynne: Collaboration is very important. Been working with PIC and Epic Ohana, as well as on Big Island to get housing vouchers for youth. We appreciate everyone coming together on this important issue.
 - Emma: We will share announcements with the mailing list when they become available.
- Mayor's Office of Housing
 - Ailina: No major updates. Rental relief program launched but ~8,000 apps in first few hours. Closed and Catholic Charities is reviewing and processing, then we will open it again. Also, the State is working with the federal gov't for mortgage relief.
- DOE
 - Toby: Liaisons are ramping up outreach into the community. Let us know if encounter school age kids and we can work to assist.
- VA
 - Art: No updates. But filled former outreach position.
- OHA
 - Nina: No updates.
- PIC updates - Laura
 - Going out to Sewers/Lualualei Beach Park next week on 4/14 for vaccination clinic, let us know if want to join for outreach. Also going back to Waimanalo this week. Contact Laura if anyone wants vaccination outreach coordination.
 - Had great outreach event at Piano Park last week.
 - Emma: Are more nurses still needed as volunteers for vaccination efforts?
 - Bob Wardlaw: Nothing official yet, but if know of anyone that is interested, let us know.
 - Emma: Laura resent the link for providers to sign up for vaccination clinics, so should have gotten that if on PIC listserv.
- HPD Officer Ibrao
 - We will try to resume HELP operations. Looking at end of this month for a smaller scale outreach. Will attend Sewers PIC outreach this week to get a feel for things. But for HELP outreaches, still trying to work on procedures. Small scale outreach at end of this month on West side, maybe Kapolei, maybe Pokai Bay. Larger scale outreach in Chinatown in May. Will send out an email about the late April outreach either tomorrow or early next week once get more details straightened out.

- DLNR (via Emma)
 - Special thank you to IHS, US Vets, KPHC, and TEAM WorkHawaii for their willingness to partner with DLNR islandwide. They have been instrumental in connecting people to services.

Presentations and Discussion

- Birth Certificates
 - Have been having ongoing discussions about continuation of free Hawaii birth certificate program through DOH --- DOH will continue the program even though the official program sunsets at end of this fiscal year. Various stakeholders discussed logistics with DOH to work on streamlining this. Legal Aid has been the lead point of contact on this --- any updates on this?
 - Janet: We are waiting for MOU from DOH, two lead agencies will be Legal Aid and IHS for statewide birth certificates.
 - Emma: Takeaway is that the service will continue.
- Economic relief payments/tax returns for non-filers
 - Hoping to have info presented at our monthly webinar toward end of this month.
- FEMA Funeral Assistance Program
 - Can potentially reimburse up to \$9,000 in funeral expenses for person whose death was caused by COVID during period of eligibility. Will have hotline through FEMA that will go live on Monday 4/12. One requirement is proof of US citizenship or legal residency (questions around COFA nationals - FEMA is following up with guidance on this).
 - <https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

- **COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Line Number**
 - Applications begin on **April 12, 2021**
844-684-6333 | TTY: 800-462-7585
 - **Hours of Operation:**
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time

- FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program
 - Should be launching near the end of April
 - This is a nationwide program that is open to qualified households. It will be similar to a LIHEAP account credit for broadband service, up to \$50/mo or \$75/mo if living on tribal or DHHH lands.
 - Once the funds are expended, the credit will end
 - <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>
 - Local stakeholders will be ramping up community education and outreach efforts once the final details are available

Provider Updates

- ALEA Bridge
 - Nicky: Our board has voted in rebrand of our org -- will be completely rebranding, including org name and logo.
- H3RC
 - Kunane: No updates

- IHS Outreach
 - Kiko: As of yesterday, we were able to set up a standing COVID vaccine clinic the last Thursday of every month at St. Augustine with PIC and Project Vision.
- KPHC
 - Steve: No updates
- Legal Aid
 - Connie & Janet: No other updates
- MHK & Punawai Reststop
 - Dorene: No updates
- Bob Wardlaw
 - Also want to mention that have not confirmed the regular St. Augustine vaccine clinic yet, but working on it.
- RYSE
 - Carla: Mobile Crisis continues to work - for housing crisis, not yet mental health crisis. Diversion project in psych hospitals, HYCF, OCCC and catching young people exiting continues to do well. There will be a vigil on Friday for the 16 y/o boy shot and killed this week.
- Hawaii Cares
 - Steve: Currently working through the process if get calls for individual under 18 y/o. As of right now, can call Cares line and then we can transfer to CAMHD. Will update group when have more info.
- US Vets
 - Macy: No updates
- Waikiki BID
 - Taylor: Looking to add a new outreach worker and to expand services to the weekends as well.
- Waimanalo Health Center
 - Dani: Continuing vaccinations, have opened up for anyone 18+. Collab with Auntie Blanche. Have rental assistance. Have funds to use for emergency situations. Can call our line (808)259-7948, can also ask for Dani.
 - Emma: Rent help specific for those in Waimanalo area?
 - Dani: For anyone. Working with Castle Foundation to help Windward side families, but our patients come from all over the island, so we help all.

Closing Discussion

- Emma: Looking for insight on a situation. When you work with households with multiple pets 5+ and they aren't willing or ready to part with any pets, when the person is very interested in getting into housing, any strategies that anyone can suggest?
 - Connie (IHS): It is really important to first figure out how they ended up with so many pets and to tell their story. May need to reorient them to understand that it is unlikely/unrealistic to get into housing with so many pets. Need to help them express how they got to this point. People that give up pets want to know that the pets will be taken care of.
 - Dorene: Humane Society is willing to come out for spaying and neutering services, but a lot of people don't want their pets spayed or neutered. But just trying to communicate to get through this.

- Emma: Another situation for insight. We get calls and emails from all types of people. We get communications from people that don't want to call police on homeless individuals loitering etc. on their property, but want to provide the individuals with services. How best can we communicate outreach services to people, especially business owners and property owners?
 - Connie (IHS): I think it begins with an assessment of a person's mental status. Have to meet people where they are at and understand why they are there etc. For mental health concerns, may want to call to crisis mobile outreach through CARES.

Please check your email for potential changes to the scheduled time of the next meeting on April 22nd.