

Oahu Outreach-Emergency Shelter Provider Meeting
January 27th, 2021

Call to Order/Client Success Story

- This week's story was about a man who had been living at Sand Island for years while struggling with a mental illness. His location and lack of transportation made access to any site-based services almost impossible, so outreach workers and DLNR staff were his only connection to services. Last year, he was connected to the I.H.S. HICM+ team for mental health case management. The HICM+ team was able to get him on medication, and when DLNR visited him last week for COVID testing, he was able to engage in a conversation, something he struggled with before receiving mental health support. Although he is still homeless, his quality of life has improved immensely. Thank you to I.H.S., TEAM WorkHawaii, and H3RC!

Government Updates

- City & County of Honolulu
 - Trish La Chica is the new Executive Director for the Mayor's Office of Housing. We will likely see her at many other meetings going forward. Welcome, Trish!
- DOE
 - Summer outreach plans are taking shape and will be shared with providers once they are finalized.

Presentations and Announcements

➔ **VITA Free Tax Prep Assistance – Susan Tamanaha, Hawaii Tax Help**

- The VITA program provides free tax prep assistance to eligible households (<\$66k annual income, simple returns). There are multiple drop-off sites islandwide but appointments are required.
 - List of free tax sites: <https://www.hawaiiataxhelp.org/free-tax-help/free-tax-sites/>
- For those with little or no income, they should consider filing right away since they don't need to wait for W-2 forms. Even if they have little taxable income, they could receive a refund on any taxes paid and potentially be eligible for fully-refundable tax credits, such as the Child Tax Credit.
- Taxes are still due on the normal tax deadline this year.
- There are some required documents for tax prep assistance:
 - Photo ID – can be a government-issued ID or something else, such as a bus pass
 - Social Security number – can be the actual card, official documentation that shows SSN (e.g. last year's tax return, letter from SSA, medical record, etc.)
 - Photocopies are acceptable
 - Note that tax returns must be filed under the individual's legal name on file with the IRS, or the return will be rejected
- Many of the tax prep sites require proof of vaccination. Outreach workers can give information to clients about how to file on their own or can receive training to complete tax returns on their behalf.
- It may be possible to claim some or all of previous years' Economic Impact Payment (stimulus) monies if clients did not receive them.
- Contact Susan Tamanaha for specific questions or to request an appointment at one of the sites: stamanaha@hawaiiataxhelp.org or (808) 450-4351.

➔ **Mana`olana Program – Catherine Fly, Child & Family Service**

- Mana`olana is a new program that serves survivors of trafficking in Waimanalo. They provide comprehensive case management services for survivors and for those who are at-risk.
- They also provide trainings for community partners to identify signs of trafficking and how to serve survivors.
- Mana`olana coordinates with other trafficking programs and is not restricted to certain types of trafficking.
- While their focus area is in Waimanalo, they have been conducting outreach in neighboring areas.
- Providers, especially those who do outreach or operate shelters in Waimanalo, can connect with Cat at cfly@cfs-hawaii.org or (808) 953-9669.

Provider Updates

- Hale Kipa and YO!
 - Seeing an increase in youth homelessness on the Leeward side.
- IHS
 - The ISO/Q tents are up and running outside of HMO. This is for people in other congregate shelters who test positive and need to be temporarily isolated before returning to their shelter.
 - Call 2-1-1 first to determine if other resources are available, and if not, 2-1-1 can direct you to IHS.
 - *Note: Please remember to call 2-1-1 for ISO/Q inquiries, not Hawaii CARES.
- Project Vision Hawaii
 - Clients can get any type of booster shot no matter which initial dose they received.
 - PVH is not promoting the J&J shot as it doesn't seem to be as effective.
- The Radical Hale
 - Have received a few referrals for youth under 24 and hoping to connect them with youth programs. Will connect with YO! offline.
- RYSE
 - The shelter for 18-24 is full and has a waitlist. The beds for minors under 18 are still available.
- ASI
 - Loke is the new housing manager for the Waimanalo Emergency Shelter at this time. The shelter is currently at capacity.
- Revive + Refresh
 - Laundry truck is operating in addition to shower trailers. They are continuing to service the HONU and other locations like Waikiki.
- U.S. VETS
 - Will follow up on availability/vacancies at Kamaoku.