

Oahu Outreach-Emergency Shelter Provider Meeting
May 26th, 2021

Service Providers in Attendance: Hale Kipa, Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center, Institute for Human Services, Kealahou West Oahu, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, Mental Health Kokua, The Radical Hale, Revive & Refresh, UnitedHealthcare Justice Liaison, Waikiki BID/BBB, Family Promise, Waikiki Health, Partners in Care, U.S. VETS

**Please note that this list may not include providers calling in from unknown phone numbers or those who join after the start of the meeting.*

Call to Order/Client Success Story

- HONU's longest resident (approximately 10 months) is now permanently housed at Kamaoku! This person was a long-time unsheltered resident in Wahiawa who has physical health issues. Regular shelters were not a good fit, and both HONU and Achieve Zero wanted to ensure he transitioned to a place with the right types of supports. In addition to being housed, he has been applied for the EHV program and several senior housing waitlists.

Announcements

- HDOT is still interested in ideas for potential funding to reduce safety risks for people living unsheltered on or around DOT properties, highways, bridges, etc. All suggestions are welcomed.
- HONU's suburban location at Waipahu Cultural Gardens Park is winding down by May 31st in accordance with its established schedule. They have been working on transitioning clients to other shelters and to the Old Stadium Park site if needed, so no one has been discharged to the street. The City & County of Honolulu will make future announcements about locations for the program.
- The Homelessness Prevention & Diversion virtual training series is underway. There are three more sessions scheduled for the next three Wednesdays at noon. Check the PIC weekly email for the links and visit [this page](#) on the PIC website to view recorded sessions.

Presentations

- **VA Case Management and Transitional Housing Future NOFO – Robin Kim, Carrie Shklov, Tony Chance**
 - The VA will be issuing a nationwide NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) later this year for case management and transitional housing programs. Models such as bridge housing, service-intensive (up to two years), low-demand, and temporary case management for housing stability services will be available.
 - Additional trainings and informational sessions will be available once the NOFO is issued, but interested providers should be aware ahead of time so they can consider the types of grants they may have the capacity to apply for.
 - The CARES Act allowed the VA to increase the per diem reimbursement rate during the public health emergency, which would revert to its regular rate after the end of the public health emergency.
 - Additional information about VA homeless programs:
https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/for_homeless_veterans.asp.
 - VA GPD team contact information:
 - Anthony Chance, LSW (Liaison): 808-940-4411; Anthony.Chance@va.gov
 - Robin Kim, LCSW (Liaison): 808-295-3982; robin.kim@va.gov

- Carrie Shklov, LCSW (Liaison): 808-292-4342; Carrie.Shklov@va.gov
- Stella Cabanig GPD Program Support Assistant; Stella.Cabanig@va.gov

Q&A

- Could a scattered site model be used?
 - Scattered site transitional housing models have been approved in the past, but inspections are needed, just like with any other federal program.
- What does the VA see as the biggest need?
 - There has been a reduction in beds for female veterans. The geographic location of housing or other services is another factor, as veterans sometimes don't want to relocate to where the existing transitional programs are located. In addition, there are more higher acuity individuals and, on the other hand, those who want housing without any type of programming or rules.
- Can you talk more about the case management component and is it like the Medicaid CIS program?
 - The case management component is for short-term (e.g. 6 months) services to keep veterans stably housed. The VA awarded around \$220k during the last round for case management over a multi-year period.
 - It may be similar to the tenancy support services through CIS.
- What should we do if a homeless veteran has already used all the resources the VA can offer but still needs help? Are they eligible for other services?
 - VHA eligibility can be complicated and sometimes it is also a matter of matching with the right resources. The VA can help navigate some of the nuances of eligibility for different programs based on the veteran's discharge status. The VA can continue to be kept in the loop but we encourage veterans to take advantage of general resources that are available, such as outreach, shelter, or other housing programs.

Provider Updates

- HHHRC
 - Food drops are still on the 4th Wednesday of every month. Please send clients who might be in need.
- IHS
 - DOH Vital Records partnership for Hawaii birth certificates is still ongoing, along with the State ID appointments at Kapalama DMV. The next available appointments are in mid-June. Contact vitaldocuments@ihshawaii.org for questions.
 - Kahauiki Village has just opened their new Youth Center – congratulations!
- MHK
 - Please reach out to Jessie Farias at (808) 387-0951 if you know any clients who are interested in the Peer Coach program. The Peer Coach program pairs adults with mental illnesses (CCS eligible) with a peer who has lived experience. This is a paid work opportunity.
 - See attached flyer for more information.
- The Radical Hale

- The next food drop partnership with Aloha Harvest is on June 7th 11:30 a.m. at Thomas Square. They will also deliver food boxes to Piano Park and Ala Moana Beach Park. As always, outreach, hygiene, and case management services are offered at Thomas Square.
- Revive & Refresh
 - We are going to Old Stadium Park twice a week. Thursday evenings at St. Augustine Church include services from IHS, Blue Water Mission, and the HOME Project.
- DOE EHCY
 - DOE's YES project bus will be making outreach rounds again this summer. They are already scheduled with a few shelters that serve families with school-aged children and are looking for more opportunities to connect with children during the summer.
 - Contact april.lum@k12.hi.us if you are interested in the outreach program.
- US VETS Waianae
 - We are seeing an uptick in COVID+ guests, so the shelter is reinstating the 5-day isolation area for those who test positive. They continue to do ongoing testing and are not requiring people to quarantine or isolate unless they test positive.
- Waikiki Health
 - We have been going through the process of shutting down Next Step by the end of June. We have a 40-foot container bathroom trailer that is available but the wheels have broken down, so it's difficult to move.