

Oahu Outreach Provider Meeting
June 9th, 2022

Service providers present: Hale Kipa, Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center, Helping Hands Hawaii, Institute for Human Services, Kalihi-Palama Health Center, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, Mental Health Kokua, Project Vision Hawaii, Revive + Refresh, RYSE, Waimanalo Health Center, Partners in Care, Hawaii Pacific Health

Call to Order/Client Success Story

- Thank you to the VA homeless outreach team and Keith at IHS for helping HDOT return a lost and found ID to a veteran in shelter.

Government Agency Updates

- DLIR Veterans Employment
 - DLIR has a representative at the American Job Centers to help with employment services for veterans that they do in partnership with CCH and US VETS. Please contact Ramon Ruiz at (808) 832-1990 or Ramon.F.Ruiz@hawaii.gov if you would like more information.

Presentation/Discussion

➔ **City & County of Honolulu Emergency Housing Vouchers, inquiries from “at-risk” households** – Lauren Rojas, PIC EHV Manager

- A few providers have been getting calls from people who are not literally homeless but are trying to get referred for a City EHV. Some of them are calling homeless outreach, but these teams are not equipped to assist these households on top of their existing work.
- People who are at-risk of homelessness fall into one of the eligibility categories for the City’s EHV allocation, but the [at-risk criteria](#) is very specific:
 - 1. Has an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD; This can be verified through their income verification you upload
 - 2. Does not have sufficient resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or another place described in paragraph (1) of the “Homeless” definition above; and I believe this can be a statement made by the client, not sure of any other ways to verify this apart from a personal statement
 - 3. Meets one of the following conditions: 1 of the 7 criteria below must be met so whichever ones apply to your client, please upload that document to HMIS
 - 0. Has moved because of economic reasons two or more times during the 60 days immediately preceding the application for homelessness prevention assistance;
 - 1. Is living in the home of another because of economic hardship;
 - 2. Has been notified in writing that their right to occupy their current housing or living situation will be terminated within 21 days of the date of application for assistance;
 - 3. Lives in a hotel or motel and the cost of the hotel or motel stay is not paid by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals;

- 4. Lives in a single-room occupancy or efficiency apartment unit in which there reside more than two persons, or lives in a larger housing unit in which there reside more than 1.5 people per room, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau;
 - 5. Is exiting a publicly funded institution, or system of care (such as a health-care facility, a mental health facility, foster care or other youth facility, or correction program or institution); or
 - 6. Otherwise lives in housing that has characteristics associated with instability and an increased risk of homelessness, as identified in the recipient's approved consolidated plan.
- Within the City's EHV allocation, they have instituted a priority for elderly households and former foster youth in Hawaii.
- One solution may be to identify agencies that do homelessness prevention programs, as they may be more familiar with documenting at-risk status and are already set up to assist this population.
 - The HPO contracted homelessness prevention providers on Oahu are US VETS and CCH.
 - RYSE can support youth who need help with diversion.
 - Waimanalo Health Center (808) 259-7948 serves both homeless and at-risk households, mainly Windward families but open to serving anyone on Oahu as a part of their mission. They have VI-SPDAT access.
 - Other agencies who do eviction prevention services on the Windward side include Hui O Hauula (808) 481-9703, KEY Project (808) 940-4283, and Hui Mahiai Aina.
- VI-SPDAT is not required to be referred for EHV. Providers can view the [City EHV application](#) on the PIC website. Pre-recorded training videos are also posted on [PIC's EHV page](#).
- So far, 37 households have been referred for a City EHV and 12 vouchers have been issued with more coming soon. PIC must review each application sent in before forwarding to the City (over 500 applications were received for the State EHV).

Provider Announcements

- The annual AIDS Walk is on June 25th – please come out to support!.
- Helping Hands Hawaii's SNAP Outreach program continues to operate. Please reach out to Cheyona Lopez at (808) 440-3812 or clopez@helpinghandshawaii.org if you have any clients who need help with SNAP benefits.
- Steve Kahanaoi is no longer with the KPHC outreach team 😞 KPHC is looking to onboard a new Outreach Supervisor.
- Legal Aid will be shifting their outreach schedule with some new staff changes, and an updated schedule will be posted on their website.
- PVH is working with partners statewide to put together back-to-school vaccination events. They still have their contract with DOH for COVID testing and vaccinations, so please don't hesitate to reach out if events are needed.
- RYSE will be starting evening and night outreach schedules in an effort to engage with young people who may be in school or in other locations during the day. Nemesis Nichols is the new Outreach Program Manager – (808) 888-5212 or nnichols@rysehawaii.org.