



Homelessness Emergency Situation Report

Incident Name: Homelessness Emergency
Situation Report # 7

Incident Commander: Aaron Lande
Operational Period: May 2024

New Emergency Orders (if any)

NONE

Emergency Response

- **We've lost 20 people since the Homeless Memorial** in December 2024; **12 of those deaths were due to overdose**
- 1/1/24 – 5/23/24 reporting from **VFD shows 955 unique calls related to homelessness:**
 - **69 Fire** calls & **886 Rescue/EMS**

HART Activities

- In addition to the regular clean-ups noted in previous Situation Reports, HART conducted clean-ups at the following locations:
 - 164th & 18th
 - Waterfront
 - 8th/11th & Jefferson
 - Other smaller pop-up jobs/locations as needed
 - Regular coordination with WSDOT for outreach and cleanup on their properties
- Removed **38.03 tons of solid waste from public property** in May; **YTD: 181.06 tons**
- Temporarily stored property for 5 people; returned property to 2 people (This is typically a process connected with citations into Community Court)
- Responded to **181 My Vancouver app submissions in May; YTD: 570**

Community engagement and tours:

- William D. Ruckelshaus Center spring Advisory Board meeting to discuss local policy issues
- Fircrest Neighborhood Association
- Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce Social Justice Subcommittee
- Individual neighbors
- City of Muskegon, MI
- Hough Neighborhood Association
- Clark County Council
- Sakura 39ers

Safe Stays/Safe Park

- **The Outpost:**
 - **3 residents exited to housing**, and 4 new residents were welcomed in
 - **1 resident approved for SSI**
 - BBQ with River City Church
 - **DSHS mobile team** made first visit to the Outpost;
 - **3 of the new residents were able to receive their food benefit card**
 - **2 got updates on ABD (Aged Blind Disabled cash benefit) status**
 - **1 completed 6-month review and signed up for healthcare benefits**
 - Victory Garden built a new bench for the site
- **Hope Village:**
 - **2 residents exited to housing** (Community Court graduates)
 - Welcomed 4 new residents
 - Hired new Case Manager (newly funded position)
- **415 West:**
 - **2 people exited to housing**
 - **1 resident has been referred to a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program** and is working through that process
 - **3 Residents enrolled in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program**
 - **1 resident completed detox**
 - Victory Food Project Garden Box work party: this project is one of the Community and Neighborhood Grants Program awards.
- **Kiggins Village:**
 - **4 current residents with housing vouchers** and in housing search process
 - **1 resident obtained employment**
 - Many successes with **getting folks document-ready and accessing benefits** they're eligible for:

- Vet who has been without VA disability compensation for more than 10 years is finally working through the appeal process
 - Vet who has been without social security card and SSDI benefits now has an appointment to reinstate benefits
 - **2 residents obtained ID and 4 obtained Social Security cards**
 - Air conditioners were installed in shelter units before it got too hot!
- **Road2Home-Safe Park:**
 - **5 residents exited to housing**
 - **1 resident transferred from vehicle to more substantial shelter** at one of our Safe Stays
 - **1 resident obtained employment**
 - 1 resident with high medical needs has finally secured a date for a needed surgery
 - **1 resident has had visitation with children reinstated**
 - BBQ with Crossroads Church
 - Water balloon fight with the kids

Community Court

- Property use agreement is nearing completion for eventual relocation and expansion of Community Court capacity.

Columbia River Mental Health Services – Community Response Team (CRMHS – CRT) April 26 – May 23

- **Outreach**

Incoming calls screened:	9
In-Person Responses:	57
Number of businesses contacted:	59
Public Engagements:	26
Public Engagement Contacts/Individuals	94

- **Ongoing and New Partnerships**
 - St Vincent de Paul – twice a week
 - River City Church – weekly
 - Recovery’ Café – weekly
 - The Giving Closet – weekly
 - The Center, Adventist Community Services – twice a week
 - Fourth Plain Community Commons – weekly
 - FISH of Downtown (still determining schedule)

- **Update on Progress**

Team is piloting expansion to downtown/uptown corridors and has engaged with HART and Vancouver Downtown Association to identify needs and referral processes.

Team members have observed that they are earning the trust of community members with behavioral health needs, which has been accomplished by partnering with other organizations and being available at those locations on a consistent and regular basis. This has allowed the team to get to know individuals, and for individuals to get to know them, by listening to stories, sharing their own experiences, and providing support with recovery journeys. Multiple people that the team has engaged with over the last several months have reported being ready to engage in treatment services, which is an important step in their recovery journeys and signals major milestones in their lives, both mentally and physically. CRT is happy to be a part of the support network in this community.

Property Closures

None