

Homelessness Emergency Situation Report

Incident Name: Homelessness Emergency
Situation Report # 10

Incident Commander: Aaron Lande
Operational Period: August 2024

New Emergency Orders (if any)

NONE

Emergency Response

- **We have lost 34 people since the Homeless Memorial in December 2023**
 - **5 in the month of August**
- **VPD Data:**
 - Data collection began 7/8/24 – data below only includes figures from that date forward.
 - **2,429 events** related to unsheltered homelessness (**13.6% of total events**)
 - **4,751.1 hours** spent on events (**23.5% of total time**)

HART Activities

- HART conducted clean-ups at the following locations:
 - NE 159th Ave/NE 65th St
 - Around the blocks of W. 11th, 12th, 13th Streets near Jefferson, King, and Lincoln to include Mill Plain and the sound wall area west from Esther.
 - Burnt Bridge Creek Trail
 - Arnold Park
 - Marine Park
 - Other smaller pop-up jobs/locations as needed
 - Regular coordination with WSDOT for outreach and cleanup on their properties along the freeway system in the City of Vancouver
- **Removed 39 tons of solid waste from public property in August; YTD: 271.87 tons**

- Responded to **125 My Vancouver app submissions in August; YTD: 951**
- Handed out **28 naloxone kits** and provided **awareness on overdose response to 13** individuals through our partnership with WA State Dept. of Health's Opioid Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) Program. *
- HART member observed a person in crisis and recognized it as a potential overdose, used naloxone and reversed the overdose. Patient was transported for further medical care.

** This program supports access to naloxone for people who are likely to experience or witness an opioid overdose by providing free naloxone to organizations and community groups for distribution to clients and community members.*

Community Engagement and Tours:

- Open House Ministries annual block party
- Office of Equity and Inclusion "Impact Talk"
- Couve Collective

Safe Stays/Safe Park

- The Outpost:
 - **2 people exited to housing** this month
 - **1 person obtained employment**
 - 1 resident completed detox
 - 2 residents are currently attending the Rent Well class in preparation for housing stability, and 1 additional resident has been referred for the next class.
 - The Outpost residents participated in an art class at the YMCA
 - Local church provided a BBQ at the site
 - **Hosted a misting station** outside the gates for any community member needing a place to cool off on severe hot weather days
- Hope Village:
 - **2 residents exited to permanent housing** and reunited with children.
 - **1 resident celebrated 6 months clean and 90 days at job;** 1 additional resident obtained employment.

- 1 resident obtained ID, and 2 residents obtained food handler cards
- 4 residents are participating in outpatient treatment
- This site has seen a significant increase of incoming residents having high medical needs and/or physical disabilities.
- Kiggins Village:
 - **2 residents exited to housing**
 - **1 resident obtained employment**
 - 2 ID's, 1 Social Security card, and several other services accessed by participants
 - Residents held a community BBQ as well as a bingo night
 - A couple of residents are working towards regaining custody of their children.
 - 1 resident addressed legal challenges that had previously been barriers to housing and is now searching for housing.
 - 4 residents are actively engaging with Key Bank representatives and working towards a better understanding of budgeting and financial security
 - **4 residents are document ready** and exploring housing options
- 415 West:
 - **1 person celebrated 90 days, and 1 resident celebrated 30 days, clean and sober**
 - **1 resident completed detox**
 - Residents are actively participating in community-building by holding support circles to encourage each other's recovery from homelessness and/or substance use and attending neighborhood events and outside recovery support groups.
 - **1 resident approved for recovery housing**, and another resident approved for assisted living – looking at September move-ins.
 - 1 resident was able to talk to their children for the first time in over a year and is working to get into Family Treatment Court.
- Road2Home-Safe Park:
 - **6 residents exited to housing**
 - **2 residents obtained employment**

- 1 resident obtained ID
- This site has seen a significant increase of incoming residents having high medical needs and/or physical disabilities.

Bridge Shelter

- Request for Proposals for primary operator opened August 20th and closed 9/11
- Request for Qualifications for Design and Engineering opened 8/28 and closes 10/2
- First phase of community engagement underway
 - Be Heard Vancouver page has been open for questions/comments, and staff has been working to answer those as they come in.
 - Working with Communications team to identify October/November dates for in-person and virtual community engagement events

Community Court

- Local business/nonprofit, Divine Consign, made a \$25,000 donation to the Clark County Volunteer Lawyer’s Program to support ongoing Community Court work!
- Community Court graduate completed treatment and spoke at the ribbon cutting for the new court location, expressing his gratitude for the role Community Court played in changing his life and reuniting him with his family.

Newly cited/referred into Court	19
Opted in to Community Court	10
Graduations (successful completion)	4
Community Service hours completed	24
Obtained Temporary Housing	3
Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder evaluations completed	5
Accessing/participating in treatment services	6

Columbia River Mental Health Services – Community Response Team (CRMHS – CRT)

	July 26 - Aug 23	10/1/23 - 8/23/24
Calls that were Screened	11	156
In Person Interventions and Outreach	34	275
Public Engagements	30	298
Public Engagement Contacts / Individuals	48	964

- Ongoing and New Partnerships

- St Vincent de Paul
- The FISH of Vancouver
- The Center, Adventist Community Services
- Recovery Café – weekly
- Fourth Plain Community Commons
- River City Church on Fourth Plain
- Safe Park
- Hope Village
- Couve Collective

- Stories of Impact from CRT staff:

The last four weeks have been challenging due to the weather. The month began with a heavy atmospheric river that drenched the county, followed by a sharp rise in temperatures and severe heat warnings. This dramatic shift in the weather patterns seemed to increase the strain on our houseless community, leading to a surge in calls related to severe behavioral health crises and substance use issues. CRT was able to provide support to everyone who reached out to the team, and they remained strong in their commitment to caring for and assisting those in need.

The team has continued to have very rewarding experiences talking with individuals who they met earlier on during the year, or who they had encountered at different times over the last several months. One individual shared that talking with CRT gave them the resources, the hope and motivation to seek treatment. They are now in housing and as they continue their recovery journey, would like to consider being a Peer Support Specialist someday.

Another individual had seen the team multiple times but had never talked with them. Recently, they approached the team and shared that since they see CRT everywhere, they felt comfortable speaking with the team as they are now familiar faces. The individual shared the benefits of starting recovery and were interested in CRMHS. CRT provided information and referrals to CRMHS and hope to see them in services soon.

One team member shared that these moments have reminded them that CRTs work is about nurturing growth in an individual and creating small positive changes, much like tending a garden. Each heartfelt thank you has reinforced the importance of the mission and the impact the teams work has had on individual's lives. This team member shared a quote from Lao-tzu, Tao Te Ching about the nature of work: "People usually fail when they are on the verge of success. So, give as much care to the end as to the beginning; then there will be no failure." And that, the team as done.

Property Closures

- Under Emergency Order 2023-003, the City Manager declared additional publicly owned property closed. The list of properties can be found on the City's [Homelessness Emergency Declaration](#) page.