

MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION



Homeless Outreach Team

Presented by
Sergeant Steve Wick



Homeless Outreach Team





Homeless Outreach Team

- <http://nationswell.com/houston-homeless-outreach-team-community-oriented-policing/>



Homeless Outreach Team

Mission Statement

To improve the quality of life for all Houstonians by combining police and community resources in an effort to reduce the number of people who are living on the streets.



Homeless Outreach Team

Defined

- ❖ Specialized team of Houston police officers and mental health caseworkers
- ❖ Engage in street outreach to homeless community
- ❖ Goal to reduce number of people living on streets by helping them overcome personal obstacles
- ❖ Relationship focused
- ❖ Working relationship with homeless, government agencies and provider community



Homeless Outreach Team

Sergeant Stephen F. Wick

Senior Police Officer Jaime Giraldo

Senior Police Officer Colin Mansfield

Officer Janice Terry

Officer Sheldon Theragood

Metro Officer Theresa Guerrero

**The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD
/PATH**

Case Manager Deirdre Kimble-Charles

Case Manager Cami West-Puentes

Case Manager Ashley Mullins



Homeless Outreach Team



*The Harris Center for Mental
Health and IDD Partnership*



Homeless Outreach Team

How can we help?

- ❖ Builds relationships with homeless
- ❖ Allows team to understand individuals' reasons for homelessness
- ❖ Works with agencies to remove barriers and help homeless re-integrate into society
- ❖ “Shepherding them through the system”



Homeless Outreach Team

IDENTIFICATION LETTERS



From the desk of
Stephen F. Wick
Tuesday, October 11, 2016



To: Whom it may concern
Subject: Identification of Terry Lamonte [REDACTED]

The listed identification on this document was obtained from the Houston Police Department's Records Management System.

Terry Lamonte [REDACTED]
B/M 08-16-1963, 5'06, 150 lbs., Blk/Brn
Texas Identification Card #227 [REDACTED]
Expires: 08-16-2018



Stephen F. Wick
#101704

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Sergeant
Stephen F. Wick
Homeless Outreach Team
Mental Health Division

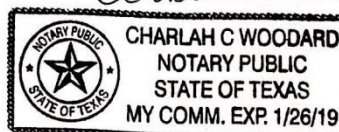


If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. My e-mail at work is Steve.Wick@HoustonPolice.org

This document has been subscribed and affirmed before me in the County of Harris, State of Texas, this 14th day of October, 2016.

Charlah C Woodard

Notary's Signature & Seal
200/10.10.F02 Rev 1 (2-18-2015)





Homeless Outreach Team

Who we work with:

- ❖ SEARCH Homeless Services
- ❖ Lords of the Street
- ❖ Palmer Way Station
- ❖ Star of Hope
- ❖ Salvation Army
- ❖ Healthcare for the Homeless
- ❖ Beacon
- ❖ Downtown Business District
- ❖ Coalition for the Homeless
- ❖ Open Door Mission
- ❖ U.S. Vets





Homeless Outreach Team

Government Agencies :

- ❖ Houston Police Department
- ❖ Harris County Sheriff
- ❖ Veterans Affairs
- ❖ Department of Public Safety
- ❖ Harris County District Attorney
- ❖ Bureau of Vital Statistics





Homeless Outreach Team

Camps





Kush



Use of synthetic
cannabinoids





Homeless Outreach Team

Curtis H.

- ☐ Works for handouts
- ☐ Delusional
- ☐ Real identity unknown
- ☐ Unsure how he survived
- ☐ Health declined
- ☐ Spent more time in back of Dollar Store
- ☐ Hospital transports as “John Doe”
- ☐ Team developed relationship with Curtis
- ☐ Finally learned his identity
- ☐ Enable Curtis to be placed in personal care home
- ☐ Social Security benefits
- ☐ Curtis is now happy, reasonably healthy and productive



Homeless Outreach Team

Brenda B.

- ❑ Lived in Hermann Park for more than a decade
- ❑ Delusional about her condition
- ❑ Well known to park visitors, subject of urban legends
- ❑ Team began to outreach and the building of a relationship
- ❑ Attempted link with healthcare and housing
- ❑ Brenda attacked in park and hospitalized
- ❑ Finally able to get housed and linked with services



Homeless Outreach Team

Teresa

- ☐ Amputee confined to a wheel chair
- ☐ Fiercely independent but paranoid
- ☐ Refuses to acknowledge her mental illness
- ☐ The team gradually built a relationship in order to help her overcome her barriers
- ☐ Because of her paranoia she is difficult to help
- ☐ Housed on two occasions but she moves out
- ☐ Currently living on the streets but we will to continue to try to help her



Homeless Outreach Team

John

- ❑ Hospital discharges wheel-chair bound man to the streets
- ❑ Team attempts to help but he politely refuses
- ❑ Multiple organizations involved
- ❑ Phone conference with Dr. Buck/Dr. Shaw
- ❑ Possible dementia diagnosis
- ❑ Transported, EDO, Got hospital involved
- ❑ Personal care home



Homeless Outreach Team Robert

- ❑ Living under bridge next to bayou for decades
- ❑ Delusional-waiting on McDonalds millions
- ❑ Treated infected foot wound with Preparation H
- ❑ Positive TB test, H.H.H. said he needed to be hospitalized
- ❑ Emergency Room for 5 hrs., HOT advocated, ER tried to send home thrice, eventually admitted
- ❑ HOT worked with hospital so Robert wouldn't be discharged to streets
- ❑ HOT assisted with move to personal care home





Homeless Outreach Team Quintus

- ❑ Quintus is 75 years old, going blind, and living under the bridge
- ❑ Got sick, eye sight deteriorating, unable to maintain hygiene
- ❑ Helped with ID, SSI, medical issues, banking
- ❑ UofH Eye Institute surgery, Connect DARS Blind Services
- ❑ Currently working on housing



Homeless Outreach Team

Darlene

- ❑ Cold, wet winter
- ❑ HOT received report of lady living in a shopping cart
- ❑ Darlene was very anxious and difficult to engage
- ❑ Several attempts before she would trust us to get her help
- ❑ Depression with psychosis delusional issues
- ❑ HOT advocated on her behalf Harris Center for psychiatric meds
- ❑ Turning Point but psychiatric issues made situation challenging
- ❑ Mental health issues stabilized
- ❑ Personal care home
- ❑ One year later: apartment and car





Homeless Outreach Team Matthew C.

- ❑ Thought to be intoxicated and transported to the Sobering Center
- ❑ Mental illness recognized by HOT and diverted to NPC
- ❑ Approximately a month later, a smiling Matthew approached officers and thanked
- ❑ Matthew said he was stable
- ❑ His old boss in Indiana was sending him a bus ticket and said that he could have his old job back
- ❑ Thanked HOT for intervening and helping him turn his life around



Homeless Outreach Team

Bob

- ❑ Honorably discharged veteran
- ❑ Chronic alcoholic for more than ten years
- ❑ HOT began working with Bob on his issues
- ❑ Bob decided that he was ready to change his life
- ❑ Detoxing so bad unable to do paperwork at VA
- ❑ Traded unhealthy addiction for healthy
- ❑ Started to run, fun runs first then marathons, ran six last year
- ❑ Two years, clean and sober
- ❑ Manages Sober house for the VA



Homeless Outreach Team

How to Contact Us

**Mental Health Division / Homeless
Outreach Team**

150 N. Chenevert Suite 200

Houston, Texas 77002

832-394-4200 (Office)

832-394-4202 (Fax)

HPD.HOT@Houstonpolice.org