Homeless Outreach Team
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

The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD Partnership
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**

**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
HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

Challenge
HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM

Curtis H.

- Works for handouts
- Delusional
- Real identity unknown
- Team developed relationship with Curtis
- Health declined
- Hospital transports as “John Doe”
- 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

Teresa

- Amputee confined to a wheelchair
- 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 continue to try to help her.
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, fibroid tumors
HOT advocated on her behalf Harris Center for psyc. meds
Turning Point but psyc. issues made situation challenging
Mental health issues stabilized
Personal care home
One year later apartment and car
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
QUESTIONS