# Street Youth Outreach on Wheels

Michelle L. Tutunjian, Enterprise Officer Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission <u>michelle.tutunjian@fresnoeoc.org</u>

Peter Ducharme, Director of Programs Bridge Over Troubled Waters pducharme@bridgeotw.org

Michelle Gorman, M.Ed, LPC, Vice President – Youth Programs Youth In Need mgorman@youthinneed.org

# Street Youth Outreach on Wheels Presentation

Presenter: Michelle L. Tutunjian, Enterprise Officer November 12, 2019

### Sanctuary and Support Services



24/7 emergency youth shelter and designated Safe Place

## 35 Other Fresno EOC Programs



Service Program

### Innovation: A New Approach to Combat Hunger & Homelessness



Think differently, be creative, ideate, innovate and drive innovation into the culture of the agency.

A brainstorm sparked ideas

# **Funding Our Vision**



- GoFundMe Campaign
- Customized videos
  - featuring local elected officials and community members
- Presentations and phone calls

# Youth Engagement



Youth Art Contest "Healthy Food Super Hero". Winners to be featured on the bus.

# Maintaining Community Momentum



Community voted for Youth Art Contest entries by age groups.



Evalie, 6 Riverview Elementary School WINNER

# Dedication of Mobile Safe Place Site and Contest Winners



Press conference with Youth Art Winners during National Safe Place Week



Community voted for Youth Art Contest entries by age groups.

### Launch: The Food Express Bus

Launch Video

Program staff outside of completed bus



### Meeting Youth Where They Are

This collaborative approach has made a positive impact on the youth and has helped to build relationships between street outreach workers and runaway, homeless, and street youth.

The Food Express Bus distributed **1,898 healthy meals** from June 11 to August 9, 2019.



### Helpful Resources

O Fresno EOC: <u>www.fresnoeoc.org</u>

O USDA Summer Food Service Program: <u>www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-</u> program

O National Safe Place Network: <u>www.nationalsafeplace.org</u>

# Mobile Medical Street Outreach

is at the heart of effective, responsive services for runaways and homeless youth

Bridge Over Troubled Waters started as a Mobile Medical Street Outreach Program in 1970 and evolved from there, basing program development on input from youth on the street and the assessment of their needs.









By bringing services directly to youth on their own turf, Streetwork has helped to ensure that Bridge programs remain flexible and viable in responding to the ever-changing needs of vulnerable young people.



#### The Bridge Medical Van •••••



#### ••••• throughout the decades



# Why is Street Outreach essential?



- Runaways and homeless youth are isolated and hidden from view
- Many, if not most, have had difficult or negative experiences with service providers and adults who should have cared for them
- Street youth are vulnerable and generally will not seek services or assistance away from the streets
- Good Streetwork builds trust and can be the most important source of referrals to in-house services

# The Role and Benefit of the Mobile Medical Van



- We're here right now.
- Headache, injury, infection? We can take care of that!
- Worried about HIV/AIDS, Hep-C?
   We can help.
- Need a warm cup of cocoa? A sandwich? We've got that!
- Afraid of the hospital? Our doctor is non-threatening and respectful.

# How do you know where the youth are?



- You know the City, its culture and geography.
- You learn from the kids themselves.
- You walk the streets.
- Visit the shelters.
- Collaborate and connect with other providers.
- Know the police around the streets.
- You're out there every day.

## Hot Spotting: Narcotic Related Incidents Around Boston



Nearly every Boston neighborhood affected

Fentanyl present in the majority of deaths

Significant number of OUD victims were homeless

### CareZONE Mobile Health Van

#### CareZONE Mobile Health Van





# How do you engage in the Medical Van Drop-In?



- Don't be judgmental
- Get to know youth
- Engage with a "respectful curiosity"
- Be there when they're there
- Respect them

# Characteristics of a Great Street Outreach Worker!



- Acceptance and tolerance
- Reliable and unpretentious
- Comfortable on the streets
- Peer-like, but professional
- Not easily intimidated
- Adaptable and aware
- Perceptive and intuitive
- Independent and collaborative
- Only some of this is about training; the rest is innate

# Training a Street Outreach Worker



- Characteristics of street youth
- On-street assessment methods
- Crisis intervention
- Referral sources
- Limit-setting
- Substance abuse issues and responses
- Trauma-informed approach

# The Training Curriculum



• Streetwork I: Understanding Street Youth

• Streetwork II: Street Survival/Street Life

• Streetwork III: Intervention on the Streets

• Streetwork IV: On-Street Assessment

• Streetwork V: Referring and Transferring Youth

# The Challenges of Street Outreach



- The balance of relationships
- The dilemma of confidentiality
- Streetwork can be lonely
- Vicarious Trauma

# Where do you go from here?



- Bridge's Multi-Service System:
- Survival aid and drop-in services
- Emergency overnights
- Counseling and Support
- GED prep, College and Career Services
- Transitional Housing
- If you can't make referrals in-house to your own agency, you've got to make referrals to others.

					roubled Waters, Inc. ch Monthly Statistics			
Outreach Wo	rker:				•	N	1onth/Year:	
GENDER	NEW	IN	VOLVED	RE-ENTRY				
Male					—	LIVING	SITUATION	
Female	+				Street			
Other					Shelter		-	
	1				Dependent on Fri			
					Independent Livin	g		
RACE	NEW	IN	IVOLVED	RE-ENTRY	On the Run With Family			
White					With Family Residential Progra			
Black					Foster Care	Jm		
Hispanic					Unknown		+	
Asian					UIKIIUWII			
Other						REFE	RRALS	
					Bridge General			
	NEW			DE ENTRY	Assess/Counseling			
AGE 14-17	NEW		NVOLVED	RE-ENTRY	Runaway/Adolesce	nt		
14-17				l	TDP			
10					Medical/Van			
				l	Dental			
20					GED/Tutoring/Voc			
21					Housing			
22					Outside Referrals			
23-24					TOTAL			
25+								
Unknown					_			
			·		New	OVERAL	L TOTALS	
					Involved		+	
RESIDENCE		NEW	NEW INVOLVED RE-EN		Intakes			
Boston					Re-entry		+	
Cambridge/S	omerville				25+		+	
Other					TOTAL			
Out-of-State								
Unk	nown							
PLACES OF CONTACT NEW INV Harvard/Central Square		INVOLVED	RE-ENTRY	PLACES OF CONTACT Meals	NEW	INVOLVED	RE-ENTRY	
Common					Day Program/St. Francis			
Copley					House Shelters			
Chinatown/D	Chinatown/Downtown				Other			
IN-HOUSE AND OUTSIDE TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS, NETWORKIN Topic Date						itacis PR	ESENTEDATA	UNSULIANC
Горіс			Dute			105		
					1			

Michelle Gorman Vice President of Youth Programs Youth In Need St. Louis, MO mgorman@youthinneed.org

RHY funded programs –
 Basic Center
 Transitional Living
 Street Outreach
 Maternity Group Home

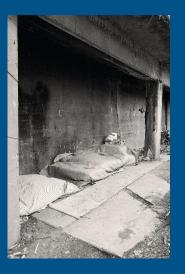
Street OutreachFYSB - 1996



Barriers
Where were youth?
Site based Outreach
Word of mouth







► Safe Place – 2006

► Today – 504 stationary sites and 379 mobile sites





#### ► Barriers:

- Long term relationship for services
- Access to long term resources
- Youth following through on referrals
  - Mistrust, lack of transportation



2010
Established call center
Local funding through a sales tax initiative
Additional funding for case management
"Warm transfers"

CoC's
 St. Louis City
 St. Louis County
 TriCounty (St. Charles, Lincoln and Warren Counties)
 Coordinated entry - 2017

