

Homeless Outreach Psychiatric-Evaluation Unit

Presentation
September 2015





Program Description

Police Department

The Pasadena Police Department created the HOPE Team on January 8th, 2002. In keeping with its core values and commitment to excellence, innovation, and integrity, the police department entered into a partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to better handle homeless issues and to provide cooperative, compassionate, mental health/law enforcement teams to assist those in need of accessing mental health and social services.

What makes the HOPE Team different from similar units in other departments is that HOPE Team members are first responders to emergency mental health crisis calls, and are proactive by continuously seeking out contact with people who are in need of services prior to potentially volatile situations occurring. The team's target population are street-level and sheltered homeless, as well as mental health consumers within the city limits.



Participating agencies

Police Department

The HOPE Team is comprised of two Pasadena Police Officers and two mental health clinicians from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health who primary responsibility is to respond to radio calls regarding the mentally ill, take custody and process these individuals through the mental health system.





Mission Statement

Police Department

The mission of the Pasadena Police and Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's Homeless Outreach-Psychiatric Evaluation team is to provide effective, collaborative, and compassionate mental health and law enforcement emergency response to those in need of mental health, housing, and related social services.

The HOPE Team will utilize proven, creative, and innovative methods of street-level, residential, commercial, and public health crisis response, while entering into mission-oriented, problem-solving partnerships with mental health and social service provider agencies. HOPE Team members will also further mission goals by serving on related boards, committees, and commissions, volunteering their expertise, experience, and leadership to help eradicate homelessness and improve the lives of mental health consumers.



Mission Statement (cont.)

Police Department

It is also the unit's mission to reduce the potential for violence during police contacts involving people suffering from mental illness while simultaneously assessing the mental health services available to assist them. This requires a commitment to problem solving, partnership, and supporting a coordinated effort from law enforcement and mental health services.



HOPE Responsibilities

Police Department

In addition to the mission statement, the unit's responsibility includes:

- ❖ The primary responsibility for the HOPE Unit is remain available for mental health calls.
- ❖ Maintain and make available to all department employees a list of assistance.
- ❖ Programs and other resources that are available to the homeless.
- ❖ Meet with social services and representatives of other organizations that render assistance to the homeless.
- ❖ Maintain a list of the areas within and near this jurisdiction that are used as frequent homeless encampments.
- ❖ Remain abreast of laws dealing with the removal and/or destruction of identifiable and non-abandoned personal property of the homeless.
- ❖ Ensure that the rights of the homeless are not violated.



Training

Police Department

HOPE Team officers receive advance officer training to further assist mental health consumers.

AOT training includes, but is not limited:

- ❖ Crisis Intervention Training (40-hours P.O.S.T. approved)
- ❖ Crisis Negotiation Training (40-hours P.O.S.T. and FBI approved)
- ❖ Emergency Personnel's Response to Individuals with Mental Illness (8-hours LAHIDTA approved)
- ❖ Interview and Disposition of the Mental III (4-hours LAHIDTA approved)
- ❖ Violence Threat Risk Assessment
- ❖ Suicide-Homicide Bomber Terrorist response



Statistical Data

Police Department

Term: 2002 (First year of HOPE)

Total calls: 848

Hospitalization: 124

Hours saved: 767+

Term: 2005

Total calls: 1,883

Hospitalization: 272

Hours saved: 1,238+



Statistical Data (cont.)

Police Department

Term:	2008
Total calls:	2,924
Hospitalization:	193
Hours saved:	1,499

Term:	2011
Total calls:	1,361
Hospitalization:	127
Hours saved:	968



Statistical Data (cont.)

Police Department

Term:	2012
Total calls:	2,373
Hospitalization:	183
Hours saved:	2,241



Homeless Count

Police Department

YEAR	TOTAL HOMELESS
2007	825
2008	836
2009	1,004
2010	1,137
2011	1,216
2012	904
2013	772
2014	660
2015	632



Enforceable Laws

Police Department

Due to the HOPE Unit being a non-enforcement unit, the following laws are applicable for patrol:

- ❖ CA PENAL CODE 647(e) – Unlawful camping or lodging. Every person who commits any of the following acts is guilty of disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor, who: (j) lodges in any building, structure, vehicle, or place, whether public or private, without permission of the owner or person entitled to the possession or in control of it.
- ❖ PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE 3.24.110 – (A)(23) To loiter or remain in the Lower Arroyo, or in the Hahamongna Watershed Park, or in Viña Vieja Park at any time from dusk to dawn. To loiter or remain in any other public park at any time between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. the following morning.



Enforceable Laws (cont.)

Police Department

- ❖ PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE 8.28.020 – No person shall place, dump or permit to accumulate or remain in any building, place or premises any rubbish, waste, manure or organic matter that may afford food or a harboring or breeding place for rodents or flies.
- ❖ PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE 8.64.030 – No person shall throw, deposit or accumulate litter in or upon any public place or private premises as hereinbefore defined within the city, except while such person is temporarily engaged in clearing the public place or private premises of litter or improving the public place or private premises.
- ❖ PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE 12.12.080 - It is unlawful for any person to stand or sit in or upon any street, alley, sidewalk or crosswalk so as in any manner to hinder or obstruct the free passage or persons passing along the same.



Enforceable Laws (cont.)

Police Department

- ❖ CA BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE 22435.2(b) – It is unlawful to be in possession of any shopping cart or laundry cart with a permanently affixed sign that has been removed from the premises or the parking area of a retail establishment.



Contributions

Police Department

The HOPE Unit serves on the following committees:

- ❖ The Pasadena Mental Health Advisory Board
- ❖ Pacific Clinics' Mental Health and Law Enforcement advisory committee
- ❖ The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor's Crimes Against the Homeless Taskforce
- ❖ Los Angeles County Mental Evaluation Teams Coalition



LACMET Agencies

Police Department

- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
- Pasadena Police Department – HOPE Team
- Long Beach PD – Quality of Life/MET
- Alhambra MET
- Burbank MET
- LASD MET
- Torrance MET
- Santa Monica PD Homeless Team
- Glendale PD
- Hawthorne /Gardena PD MET
- South East Regional Team (Downey PD, Signal PD, Montebello PD, Monterey Park)



Conclusion

Police Department

The partnership between the Pasadena Police Department and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health provides mental health consumers with long term psychiatric solutions.

The amount of hours that the HOPE unit contributes to the department allows patrol officers to remain available to answer calls for service.

With the immediate accessibility of trained mental health evaluators, the HOPE unit can provide consumers with the appropriate psychiatric level of care.



Pasadena Police Department

Police Department

Pasadena Police Department
207 N. Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101
(626) 744-4241 Non-emergency

Pasadena PD – H.O.P.E.
(626) 744-7054

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Questions