



## Homelessness Emergency Situation Report

**Incident Name:** Homelessness Emergency  
**Situation Report #** 9

**Incident Commander:** Aaron Lande  
**Operational Period:** July 2024

### **New Emergency Orders (if any)**

NONE

### **Emergency Response**

- **We've lost 30 people since the Homeless Memorial** in December 2023
  - **5 in the month of July**
  - **15 (50%) due to overdose**

### **HART Activities**

- HART conducted clean-ups at the following locations:
  - Around the blocks of W. 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> Streets near Jefferson, King, and Lincoln to include W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street from Esther to Thompson Ave and the Mill Plain overpass
  - Burnt Bridge Creek Trail system area from Devine Rd to Andresen
  - 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 **28.0 tons of solid waste from public property in July; YTD: 231.61 tons**
- Responded to **143 My Vancouver app submissions in July; YTD: 826**
- Handed out 48 naloxone kits and provided awareness on overdose response to 14 individuals through our partnership with WA State Dept. of Health's Opioid Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) Program. \*

*\* 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:**

- Port of Vancouver Tenants
- Fred Meyer/Kroger Corporation
- CVTV filmed two stories to be released after editing and production, one at Road2Home – Safe Park, and one from Community Court

### **Safe Stays/Safe Park**

- **The Outpost:**
  - **1 person exited to housing** this month
  - **1 person obtained employment**
  - **1 resident received approval for SSI**
  - The Outpost hosted an Arts & Crafts day at the site, and volunteers led the activities, which enjoyed lots of resident participation.
  - 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:**
  - **1 resident exited to permanent housing** at an assisted living community
  - A few residents are on deck to move into housing in August
  - **1 resident credits Road2Home and Hope Village with family reunification due to the stability and support of the programs**
  - **2 residents are in process for receiving their green cards and a 3<sup>rd</sup> is in the final steps of the process**
- **Kiggins Village:**
  - **3 residents exited to housing**, and one is on deck for August
  - **2 ID's, 1 Social Security card, and** several other services accessed by participants
  - **1 resident went to 28-day detox program;** another who has never considered sobriety has been engaging in recovery meetings
  - 8 residents are document ready and exploring housing options
- **415 West:**
  - **1 person celebrated 60 days clean and graduated from the Safe Stay into Open House Ministries where she is reuniting with her children**
  - **1 additional resident celebrated 60 days clean and sober**

- 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.
- Several residents and staff supported Couve Collective by attending their open house; **the two orgs will be planning a collab soon!**
- Residents have been enjoying the Farmer's Market and tending to their own garden, which is looking **phenomenal!**
- **1 resident transitioned to The Outpost**, acknowledging that they were struggling with their proximity to locations where they previously participated in unhealthy behaviors, which is starting to be a more frequent occurrence. As a result of this, **all Safe Stays have begun talking with each other to problem-solve and coordinate efforts** together.
- Residents and staff have been grieving the loss of a former resident; staff has assisted the Medical Examiner in locating this person's family.

**Finding a behavioral health org/community partner willing to accept residents for detox services has been a significant barrier.** Staff has referred multiple residents to detox who had "voiced a strong desire for change." Unfortunately, individuals are not being accepted into detox for reasons like "not enough use of Meth" or "being on too high a dose of Methadone."

- **Road2Home-Safe Park:**
  - **2 residents exited to housing**
  - **5 residents transferred from vehicle to more substantial shelter** at one of our Safe Stays
  - **2 residents obtained IDs**
  - **Trash Smasher litter abatement program began.** The Columbian news reported, "*Beautiful humans clean up garbage around Safe Park in Vancouver.*"

### **Bridge Shelter**

- Request for Proposals for service provider(s)
- Mental Health Sales Tax Funding proposal update/timeline
- Potential Property
- Community Engagement strategy and timeline

### **Community Court**

- The new court location at 5107 E. Fourth Plain Blvd, Suite 105 is fully functional and court sessions have been held at the new venue since 7/12.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new court location will be held on 8/16 at 11am.

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

June 24 – July 25

	June 24 – July 25	10/1/23 – 7/25/24
Calls that were Screened	9	145
In Person Interventions and Outreach	38	241
Public Engagements	35	268
Public Engagement Contacts / Individuals	57	916

- **Ongoing and New Partnerships**

- St Vincent de Paul – twice a week
- The FISH of Vancouver – twice a week
- The Center, Adventist Community Services – twice a week
- Recovery’ Café – weekly
- Fourth Plain Community Commons – weekly
- River City Church on Fourth Plain - weekly

- **Update on Progress**

As word of mouth has spread about CRT, they are receiving calls from businesses that the team hasn’t even visited or met with yet. This has been a real sign of encouragement to the team.

The team recognizes that some individuals will be open to discussing resources that are available to them but will ultimately decline all services at the end of the engagement. This could be discouraging to some, but the CRT members have consistently shown how passionate they are about helping community members in need. Even though an individual might decline further assistance one day, the team has planted the seeds of creating a connection of trust with CRMHS which may lead them to finally being willing to accept help from others that they want and need.

### **Property Closures**

None