

Service Provider Feedback RE: GERI Outreach

Attendees, Bridget Reeves, Teri Bryant, Malora Christensen, Janice Keller, David Crass, Nicole Oliver, Tara Sundin

March 1, 2021

Questions posed:

- Would your agency go to Geri field for outreach purposes? If so, what conditions do you have?
- How much resource would you be able to provide to this effort?
- If not outreach at this camp, what do you think would really help reconnect people?
- Would you be willing to document your experience?
- Can we communicate together?

Tara, Nicole and Lt. Crass provided overview of current conditions.

All three agencies (GRACE, HOT and LMM) will go near but not in the encampment. Do not feel safe/welcome. GRACE has 3 enrolled clients there. LMM outreach recognizes many/most. LMM believes there are some/several that are restricted for serious reasons (Bridget - example, please)

Teri asked what is our goal? Staff said to reconnect campers that had begun to build up trust at Base Camp and with HOT and to conduct outreach prior to closing the camp with police presence.

Comments from Teri:

- Outreach will not change anything - HOT builds relationships to connect people to housing or shelter such as Base Camp. She believes they will relocate.
- Her staff doesn't feel safe or useful. (See email from Teri sent by Anne Deacon for more info.)
- If they show up, they will just feed Markis D's rhetoric that they help police cleanup camps.
- Will not show up if in connection to closing the camp.
- Willing to go near - with wifi.

Comments from Bridget:

- Perhaps if a location nearby (if outreach) - would want an invitation from collective.
- Prefers they come to them rather than invading their space - they need to make the choice to access services.
- They can help people get "ok'd" to come back - mentioned that some people think they've been trespassed when they have not. Note: not all will be able to come back - ie. Sexual predators. (As Eric Johnston mentioned - some of the hardest to serve individuals remain).

- LMM isn't the catch all for every single person. Noted - that some people do fall through the cracks. Not that they should not have a place/shelter to go to but a large congregate low-barrier shelter does not serve all (focus on unsafe behavior other guests and staff).

Malora

- Emphasized case managers are doing outreach to volunteers - so much misinformation and lack of education. They do not know how the system works.
- Would want an invitation and agreement with the collective in order to do outreach.
- Concern that we/they would appear "tone deaf" to show up and do a day or two of outreach. Would need to do more.
- Malora's primary message was focused on communication.

Tara asked if provided with a place nearby (i.e. Civic) would they have outreach. All agreed that they could (did not seem like a preferred solution). They understood this was mostly about optics.

Discussion turned to the need to do community communication **that could educate volunteers and broader community**. Janice agreed a Communication Strategy is needed.

Communication and more importantly, education, would do more to help community and campers than a "pretend" outreach event.

If Mayor ok's, Tara (though her team is currently maxed out) could work with Mayor's Office to plan a panel event and/or mini You-tube videos that answer peoples' questions - Janice mentioned she wants to plan an event with two-way conversation. Tara is interested in mini-You-tube videos that could be shared as a whole and people could pick the topic/question they want to hear more about.

Shared truths - real talk is needed. People are engaged and want to understand why this is so complex. **Community is ready for harder conversations – they want to know what they can do**. Why the scarcity of resources and what does that mean? Meth is real and makes housing people very hard. Why do people fall through the cracks. Why do we have to prioritize certain demographics? **Chuckanut Community Healthy Foundation may be a good facilitation partner**.