

Crisis Walk In Center - Scope of Work

Work Group

April 2013

Background

In November 2012 supporters of the Mental Health Association of Portland (MHAP) reviewed the settlement agreement to *DOJ v City of Portland* and agreed to advocate for development of a welcoming, engaging alternative to the streets, hospitalization and jail for persons in crisis.

Over the last several months MHAP has been in discussions with leadership at the City, County and with community providers. Based on those discussions, as well as the content of the settlement, it is clear that there is interest in this alternative solution and that it be not only welcoming and engaging but also peer-centered and health focused. Additionally, this solution requires assertive and impartial stewardship over the next 12 months as the settlement is mediated. MHAP has agreed to steward this project.

The Crisis Walk-In Center Work Group

In April and May of 2013 MHAP will ask friends to form the initial Crisis Walk-In Center Work Group. This work group will develop and vet a comprehensive proposal to address one of the most significant issues connected to the DOJ settlement - the crisis walk in. Workgroup members will be selected by MHAP and will grow and shift as needed. Over time, this group will gather information on the needs of the public mental health system and services for persons in crisis, including police, jail, hospitals, clinics, homeless shelters and public housing, The group will also prepare presentations and texts to share what it learns. Members of the work group will become authorities based on a review of literature, tours of similar programs, and dialogue within the Portland-area community.

Components of this plan will initially be focused on the proposed Walk-In Center and may include:

- Architecture and construction, siting and permitting
- Operations - program, policies, security, integration
- Budget, financial controls, internal contracts, vendors
- Consumer advisory group
- Fiscal partnership - City / County funding
- Location siting + Good Neighbor Agreements
- Memos of Understanding with allied agencies
- Media, police and community education - naming, branding
- Full hiring & move in & doors open

As the settlement is mediated, and after discussions with leadership at the City, County and

community providers, it is apparent peer-centered solutions implied by the settlement will likely not survive without assertive and impartial stewardship. In April of 2013 MHAP asked friends to form the Crisis Walk In Center Work Group to prepare a comprehensive plan for funding review by City Council after settlement issues are resolved.

The work product of the group will develop an understanding of the needs of the public mental health system and services for persons in crisis, including police, jail, hospitals, clinics, homeless shelters and public housing, The group will also prepare presentations and texts to share what it learns. Members of the work group will become authorities based on a review of literature, tours of similar programs, and dialogue within the Portland-area community.

Texts and testimony will be presented to city and county commissioners, staff from both governments, funding agencies, stakeholders and interested persons, through public meetings and the media, and made available on the MHAP web site.

Mental Health Association of Portland - www.mentalhealthportland.org