

Homeless Innovations Project:

Integrating Mental Health, Physical Health and Substance Abuse Services to Serve Individuals experiencing Homelessness

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Organizational design

- HIP is an Integrated Mobile Health Team

- Executive leadership pioneered Milestones of Recovery Tool
- Created Partnership between The Children's Clinic, Serving Children and Their Families (TCC) and Mental Health America of Los Angeles (MHALA)
- Street medicine approach to focus on the most "vulnerable" in Long Beach, California
- Multidisciplinary staff with varied educational and employment histories
- Use of technology to enhance services and practice with 24/7 availability (alternative scheduling)
- Part of MHALA continuum of care

Why is Healthcare Integration Important?

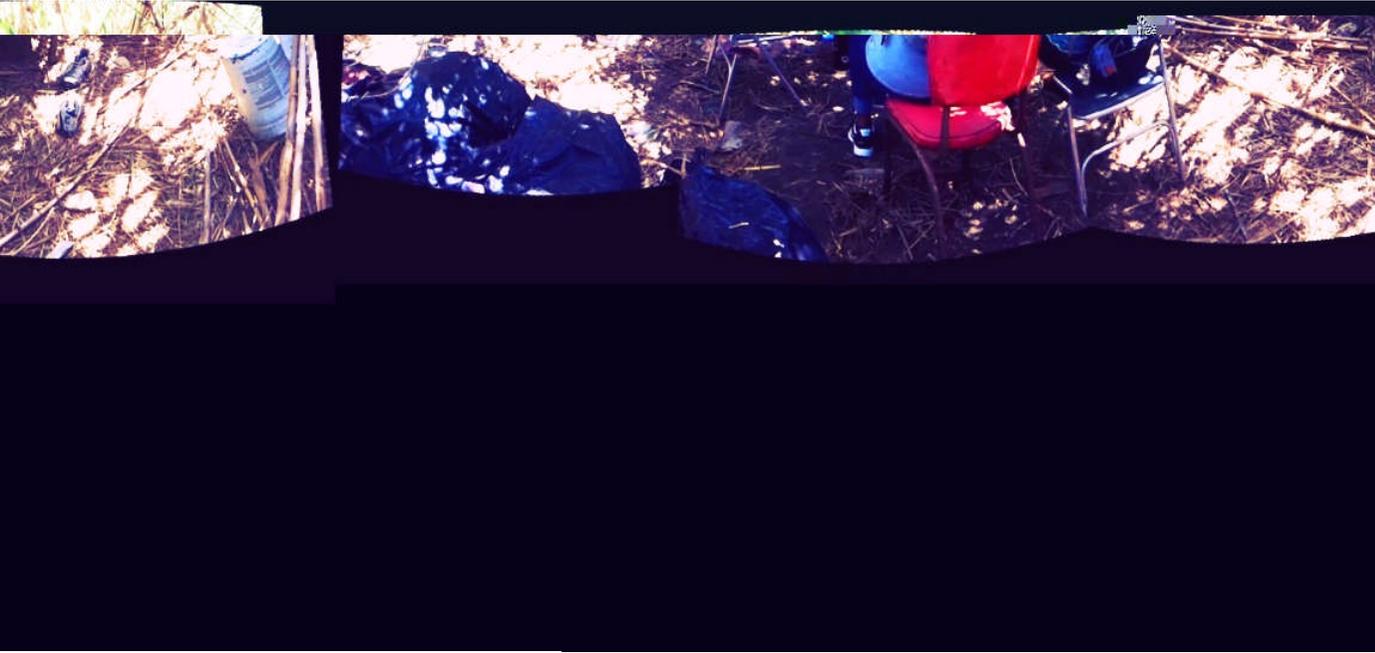
Physical wellbeing is intertwined with mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing, and is therefore an important component of recovery.

Addressing both physical health and mental health issues simultaneously will help members in our programs live longer, healthier lives.

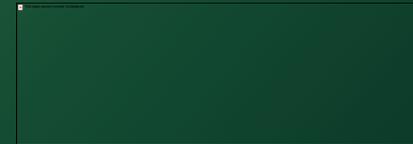


Treatment design

- ▶ Identified key evidence-based practices most useful for our target population
 - ACT, CTI, MI, Supported Employment and Education
- ▶ Incorporated several models that are already an integral part of MHALA services and continuum of care
 - Recovery Model
 - Housing First Model
 - Harm Reduction Model
 - Technology and accessibility

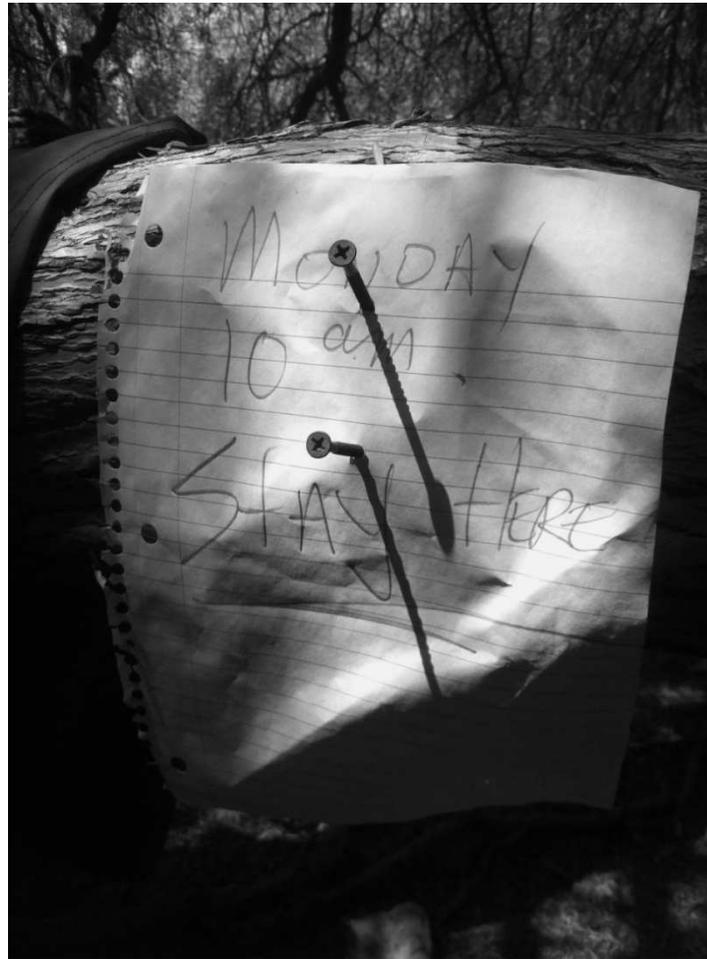


Assessment at an Encampment



Integrated Mobile Health Worker

- Outreach and engagement
- Case management
 - Advocacy and linkage to community resources
 - Care Coordination
 - Mental Health Services (MSW, LCSW)
 - Individual therapy
 - Assessments & Disability Reports
- Substance Abuse Counseling (CAADAC, CATC III)
- Permanent Housing Support



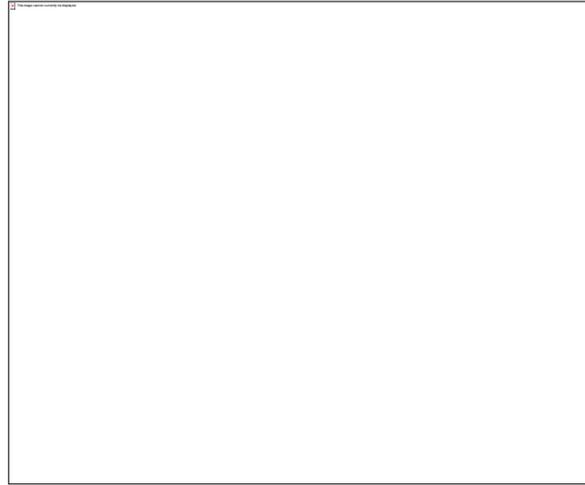
Integrated Medical Staff (TCC)

- Primary Care services (NP's, MD)
 - Health assessments
 - Treatment and management of health conditions
 - Preventive services
 - Referral to specialty services
- Role in Disability Reports



Integrated Medical Staff (MHA)

- MHA Nursing (RN, LVN)
 - Nursing assessment & screening
 - Health history
 - Basic wound care and first aid
 - Health crisis response
 - Preventive Health
 - Client and staff health education
- MHA Psychiatrist
 - Mental Health Assessments
 - Psychiatric treatment
 - Health Education



Struggles

- ▶ Learning curve was steep when integrating primary care, substance abuse, and mental health care
- ▶ HIPAA
- ▶ Lack of office
- ▶ Safety
- ▶ Fear and risk avoidance
- ▶ Grief and loss
- ▶ Staff Burnout



Successes

- ▶ Nursing roles as team leads
- ▶ OCHA and integrating treatment
- ▶ Entirely field based services
- ▶ Teamwork; Shared responsibility and accountability
- ▶ Rituals
 - ▶ Celebrating milestones and life
 - ▶ Self care and emotional sharing as a team
- ▶ Maintaining vision and culture
 - ▶ Outcomes and program effectiveness
 - ▶ Support systems and collaborative problem solving
 - ▶ Stay thinking outside of the box.....

