BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS STATEWIDE UNIFIED RESPONSE GROUP (BHHSURG)

COVID-19 UPDATE

EDWARD MERSEREAU, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

SCOTT MORISHIGE, GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS

HAROLD BRACKEEN III, ADMINISTRATOR
HOMELESS PROGRAMS OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

JASON KASAMOTO, SPECIAL ASSISTANT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR'S COORDINATOR ON HOMELESSNESS

Agenda

- **Update on Communications Plan and Next Steps**
  Jason Kasamoto, Special Assistant
  Office of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

- **Question & Answer**
  Scott Morishige, Harold Brackeen, Eddie Mersereau

Note: This presentation will be recorded and posted along with a copy of the slide deck to the BHHSURG website at http://BHHSURG.hawaii.gov.

Jason Kasamoto, Special Assistant

Office of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness

December 28, 2020

HICH Communications Update

Statutory Mandate

HRS §346-381 (b) (8) requires the council to ***"advise on the development and implementation of a public education program on homelessness in Hawaii and disseminate information including data and best practices."***

Objectives

- Promote and increase awareness of the HICH and its role as a statewide homelessness planning and policy development entity.
- Promote and increase awareness of homeless programs and services, including activities of the Continua of Care (CoCs).
- Share information regarding the council's strategy and framework to address homelessness:
  - Increased coordination among system stakeholders.
  - Building capacity of providers and government agencies.
  - Prioritizing a housing-focused approach that provides clear pathways to permanent housing.

Specific Activities to Achieve Objectives

Development of a logo for the HICH to increase visibility and communicate the role and purpose of the council.

Create and share videos and printed collateral, such as:

- 'Talk Story' video segments
- Infographics regarding specific programs
- Written articles for posting on social media and website

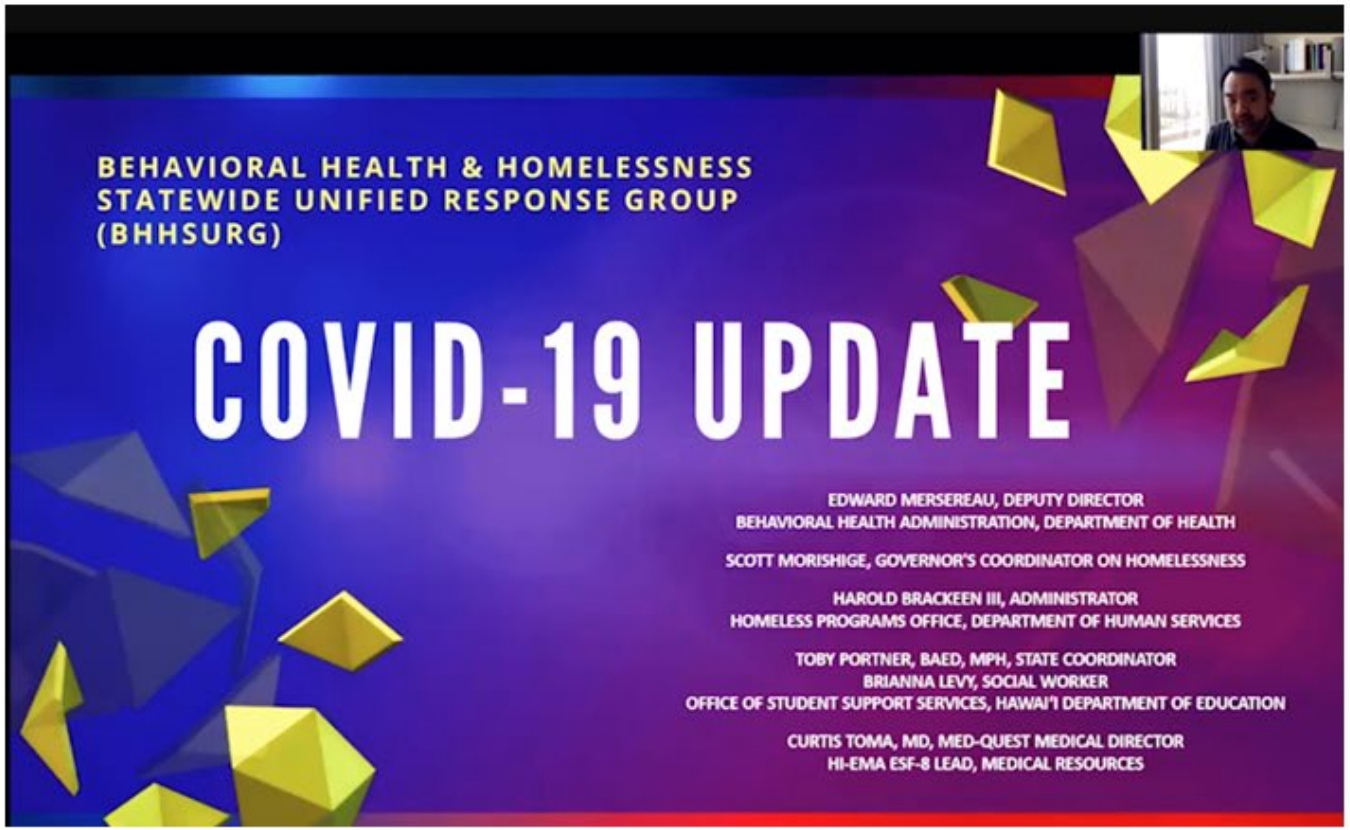
Targeted Webinars and educational sessions, such as BHHSURG.

Training for businesses and partners regarding outreach and other homeless services.

Leveraging Community Partnerships

- Utilized student interns from the Myron B. Thompson School of Social Work
- Outreach to PIC, BTG, and the four counties.
- Partnership with other state agencies, such as DHS, DOT, and other HICH members.

Transition from BHHSURG Weekly Webinar



Other Mechanisms for Communication

- Website: https://homelessness.Hawaii.gov
- Social Media: http://facebook.com/homelessness.HIgov
- Webinars: https://bhhsurg.Hawaii.gov/weekly-webinar

Talk Story Examples

TALK STORY

This week we talk story with Program Associate Xan Avendano from the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. Xan shares about his background, his current role at the foundation, and how the foundation addresses the issue of homelessness in Hawaii, as well as issues related to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. The Weinberg Foundation's current grantmaking focus includes housing, health, education, and jobs, with a special focus on rural communities. In regard to the pandemic, the foundation actively participates in the House COVID-19 sub-committee on housing, is an active member of a philanthropic funder's hui, and joined with other local foundations to support a group of nonprofits working together to build trust and connection with young people without homes or at risk of losing housing. In addition, Xan shares about the overall importance of collaboration and how through partnership the foundation can leverage its resources with other private and public dollars and and human capital for greater impact.

Please click on the links below to view other 'Talk Story' segments:

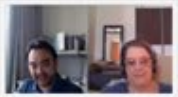
Talk Story No. 1 (October 21, 2020) – Guest: Ashton Varner, Kauai County Homeless Coordinator

Talk Story No. 2 (October 27, 2020) – Guest: David Nakama, Maui County Homeless Coordinator

Talk Story No. 3 (October 29, 2020), Guest: Sharon Hirota, Hawaii County Homeless Coordinator

Talk Story No. 4 (November 3, 2020) – Guest: Laura Thielen, Executive Director of Partners in Care

Talk Story No. 5 (November 5, 2020) – Guest: Marc Alexander, City & County of Honolulu Mayor's Office of Housing



Talk Story No. 6 (November 12, 2020). Guest: Judith Clark, Executive Director, HYSN

Talk Story No. 7 (November 24, 2020): Guests: Toby Portner and Briana Levy, Hawaii Department of Education

Talk Story No. 8 (December 1, 2020): Le`a Minton, MI-HOME Project

Talk Story No. 8 (December 8, 2020): Xan Avendano, Program Associate, Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

Website Examples

DAILY EMERGENCY SHELTER VACANCY

The list below shows available shelter vacancies for **Thursday, December 10, 2020.** Please note that vacancies are self-reported by providers and are subject to change without notice throughout the day. ***Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases on Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii island, some shelters may institute additional screening requirements. Please contact each respective shelter for more information.***

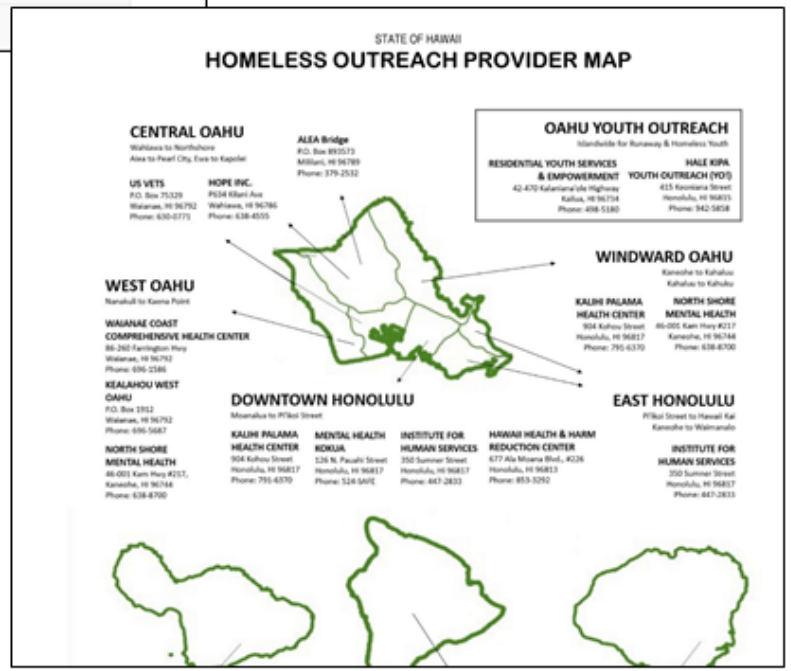
In addition, a list of transitional shelter and Adult Mental Health Division (AMHD) group home beds is available by request. Please call *(808) 586-0193* or e-mail gov.homelessness@hawaii.gov to request a copy. Please note that group homes charge a monthly rent and individuals must be referred through the Hawaii Department of Health. For transitional shelter vacancies, note that referrals must go through the Coordinated Entry System (CES) and you may contact the Continuum of Care on your island for further information.

For assistance in clearing individuals into CARE Hawaii or Aloha House Licensed Crisis Residential Shelter (LCRS), call the Hawaii Department of Health's CARES Line at *(808) 832-3100* on Oahu or *(800) 753-6879* on the neighbor islands.

Special Referral Instructions for POST Facility: POST provides temporary outdoor shelter to people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals with flu-like symptoms will be referred to the CARES for screening prior to admission. Please call *(808) 768-4668* to check availability prior to referring individuals to the POST site.

If individuals are interested in connecting to an available shelter opening, contact the homeless outreach provider in your geographic area.

OAHU	Capacity for Today's Intake	Comments
Catholic Charities Hawaii - Family Assessment Center		Intake Line: 808-202-9133
Cubicles (2-5) average	0	
Catholic Charities Hawaii - Villages of Maili		



Website Examples

Home » Main. News. Success Stories » RYSE Haleiwa Project

RYSE HALEIWA PROJECT

The Haleiwa Project came about because it simply made sense to its partners: Alternative Structures International (ASI)/Kahumana, Residential Youth Services & Empowerment (RYSE), and ALEA Bridge.

RYSE became involved because the former occupant of the property (Central Oahu Youth Services Association) and the Haleiwa community wanted the site to continue to serve youth. Meanwhile, ASI/Kahumana and RYSE had built a partnership through the Youth Rapid Rehousing Collaborative. Separately, thanks to State Ohana Zone funding, RYSE had partnered with ALEA Bridge to provide street outreach to youths in Central Oahu and on the North Shore. Because of its community ties in Haleiwa, ALEA Bridge was a perfect partner and property manager for the Haleiwa Project.

"The Haleiwa Project is a great example of how the sum of collaboration is greater then the individual parts: ASI brought its experience in Rapid Rehousing and managing city owned affordable rental properties, RYSE brought its focus and expertise on homeless youth, and ALEA Bridge brought its outreach team and regional presence in Wahiawa and the North Shore," said Tom McDonald of ASI/Kahumana. "Working together, our three agencies ensure success and heightened housing and employment outcomes for youth experiencing homelessness in Haleiwa and surrounding areas."

The project's first tenants — a young mom and her baby — moved in at the end of May. At full capacity, the youth affordable housing project will provide affordable housing to 15 total youth and young families in three houses. Currently, four youth and a child live in House #1 and another four youth have been assigned and are moving into House #3.

Home » Main. News. Success Stories » Helping the homeless takes time, many hands and lots of patience.

HELPING THE HOMELESS TAKES TIME, MANY HANDS AND LOTS OF PATIENCE.

In late June, the Office of the Governor's Coordinator on Homelessness received an email from a Laie community member about a gentleman named "John" who had been living at a bus stop for several months. John had numerous bodily ailments and had trouble walking, but was friendly and non-threatening. John hailed from Utah and had family there, but he liked Laie and wanted to rent a room or a small apartment in the Laie community. Unfortunately, John could not live independently because of his chronic health issues.

Perhaps Partners in Care's Landlord Engagement Program could offer a few leads on affordable housing options for John. Instead, the LEP and its program manager, Gracie Suaglar, offered so much more. Gracie was instrumental in connecting the different providers, which included HMSA, Kalihi-Palama Health Center and Koolauloa Health Center. In addition, she worked with John's family in Utah to secure the documents necessary to house him. She also traveled out to Laie many times to work with John, the providers and the community members — sometimes during the weekend.

All that hard work paid off when Gracie and a community member helped to secure an ADA-accessible unit in Laie for John by working with U.S.VETS and its Rapid Rehousing program. John moved in around mid-September.

The Laie community stepped up big time to help John as well. It was a community member who initially notified the GCH office about John. Others offered food to John and helped tend to his needs. Community members worked many hours to renovate and furnish his unit. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints paid for John to stay at Courtyard by Marriott Oahu North Shore while his unit was being finalized. Lastly, the community has made a commitment to assist John with his daily care.

Infographic Examples

Infographic Examples

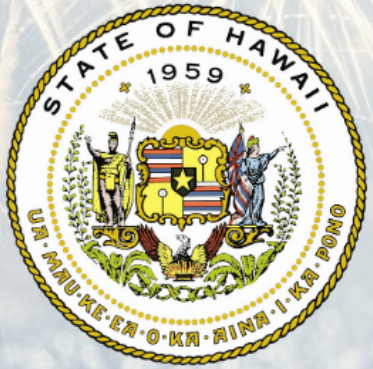
For Questions or
More Information:

Jason Kasamoto
Special Assistant
(808) 208-3712

Question & Answer

Scott Morishige, Harold Brackeen, Eddie Mersereau

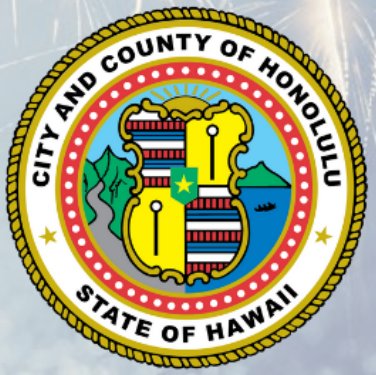
Mahalo


STATE OF HAWAII
1959
UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO

HAWAII STATE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I
MĀLAMALAMA
1907
UA MAU KE EA O KA 'ĀINA I KA PONO
TM


CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
STATE OF HAWAII

@BHHSURG

#HealthyWeLiveHawaii #SocialDistancing
#FlattenTheCurve #TogetherWeCan

BHHSURG.HAWAII.GOV