

City of Portland Public Health Division - Health Care for the Homeless

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Medical Director: Phillip Carter, MD
UDS Number: 010620

Project Description

The HCH Program of the City of Portland is operated by the Public Health Division of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Services

The HCH Program provides primary health care, triage, referral, follow-up, and case management to persons who are homeless at meal sites, shelter-based clinics, halfway houses, and on the streets. Mental health outreach, screening and referral, case management, and treatment are available. Intensive mental health outreach and intervention have been added through collaboration with the Maine State Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services. Respite care provides 24-hour nursing care. Access to a large number of volunteer sub specialists has been developed. All adult ambulatory care services are provided to clients at no cost.

Linkages

The Division of Social Services is located within the city health department. Their services include shelters, employment and youth services, housing placements, general assistance, short term crisis intervention, and day respite services. Mercy Hospital contributes ancillary services, such as lab work, EKG, EEG, and x-rays. The Portland Community Free Clinic, another Public Health program, is supported by a unique combination of community volunteers, Mercy Hospital, and the Public Health Division. This clinic offers specialty services, such as podiatry, orthopedics, and dermatology clinics. A Volunteer Dental Clinic, another public health program, provides limited dental services. A clinic serving runaway and homeless youth operates within a collaborative of youth-serving agencies at a multi-service site. The community resource center is a centralized site of services.

Statistics

Estimated homeless population: 5,000 Project users: 1,634

Subcontractor(s):

Barron Center

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