

# Seattle King County Mobile Medical Street Medicine Team



# What is Street Medicine?

Delivery of health care directly to those living outside

“go to the people” , tent by tent, encampment by encampment

Building relationships, providing direct care and connect people to services

We serve people living outside who may be living outside on the street, in vehicles, encampments and shelters



# Our services:



- Health checks and assessments
- STI/STD, HIV, Hepatitis C, Syphilis tests
- Wound care
- Foot care
- Pregnancy Tests and Birth Control
- Narcan overdose training and kits
- Suboxone
- Immunizations
- COVID Testing
- Medical insurance sign ups
- Housing assessments (VI-SPDATs, VATs)
- Linkages to housing and shelter
- Linkages to behavioral health teams
- Basic needs: water, snacks, hygiene kits

# Who is on the team?

- Our Clients and our Partners
- Sarah Fentin, Outreach and Behavioral Health Specialist-Downtown Emergency Services (DESC)
- Julie Little, Public Health Nurse
- Kammi Lopez, Nurse Practitioner
- Penelope Toland, Public Health Nurse
- *Kami Harless, Lead Physician*
- *Brittany Meek, Supervisor, DESC*

# Why is street medicine important?

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- Rough sleepers have a mortality risk 10X higher than people who are housed, 3X higher than people living in shelter (JAMA Intern Med. 2019; 178(9): 1242-1248)
- Mainstream health care is not meeting the needs of people living outside
- Professional, ethical responsibility
- Relieve suffering - not “fix” or save people, Dr. Patrick Perri, Board of Directors, Street Medicine Institute

# Program Mission and Values

- We are a community of care who provide an environment of safety and acceptance that recognizes clients for their unique experiences as experts in their own lives. We offer medical and behavioral health services to support healthy living with compassion, respect, and unconditional positive regard.
- Our mission is to ensure people who are unsheltered in King County have access to the health care they deserve, on their terms. We provide person centered services that are equitable and racially just through a harm reduction, trauma informed lens.



# Mission, values development

## Street medicine for people living unsheltered

The Street Medicine Team is a partnership with Public Health Seattle and King County (PHSKC) and Downtown Emergency Services (DESC). It was born out of the recognized need to bring health services directly to those living unsheltered in our communities.

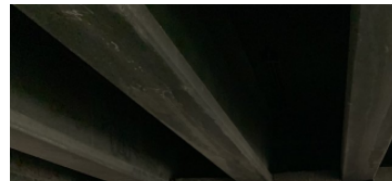
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### What do we do?

- Health checks and assessments
- STI/STD, HIV, Hepatitis C, Syphilis tests
- Wound care
- Foot care
- Pregnancy Tests and Birth Control
- Narcan overdose training and kits
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The Street Medicine



### Street Medicine Team

#### Mission

*Our mission is to ensure people who are unsheltered in King County have access to the health care they deserve, on their terms. We provide person centered services that are equitable and racially just through a harm reduction, trauma informed lens.*

#### Values

##### Health Equity

- We recognize that Black people, Indigenous people, and People of Color have been harmed by racism in healthcare systems and safety net services, and we are committed to constantly evaluating and educating ourselves, to ensure we are delivering anti-racist services
- We confront individual and systemic racism in all areas of healthcare delivery
- We collaborate with marginalized communities to ensure that we share power regarding where and how care is delivered
- We believe in the inherent value of every person, and that every person has access to quality health care

##### Relationships

- We build and maintain relationships with clients and community partners
- We meet clients where they are currently, without judgement
- We are committed to building a supportive, caring team environment for each other

##### Safety

- We are respectful in our interactions with our clients and each other
- We accept and honor the uniqueness of each person we work with and each other

##### Innovation

- We implement creative ways to provide medical and behavioral healthcare
- We push boundaries, not doing things the way they have always been done
- We are flexible in adapting to the needs of our clients and our roles within the program

##### Quality Health Care

- We provide person-based care, recognizing clients for their unique experiences and as experts in their own lives
- We focus on the clients' goals and reality as a priority



## Where do we go?

- Walk in visits at Jefferson Day Cent
- Visits in Seattle and South King County on foot and in a van

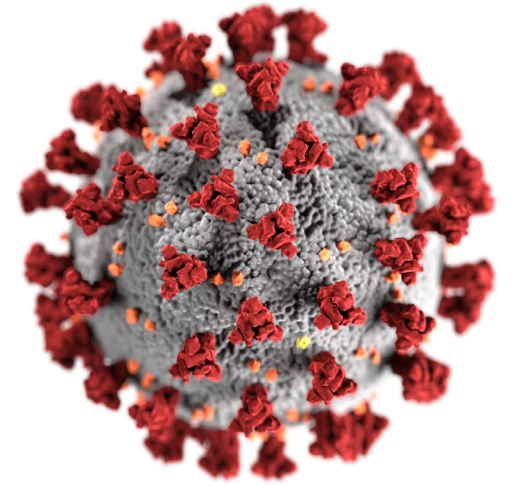




# Things we are working on, hopes for future

- Needs Assessment with community members to inform practice, development
- Psych ARNP, improve MH care in the field
- Peer with lived experience to join team
- New street med van

# Successes and Challenges 2020



## COVID

- Continued essential core operations
- Added COVID testing, screening and education.
- Limited access to many agencies that our clients depend upon
- Increased need for essential primary care services, substance use and *overdose treatment and support **thanks to MIDD funding.***
- Provide essential support to reactive COVID responses in encampments and for unsheltered individuals
- Helped to train the encampment COVID testing teams.

# Successes and Challenges 2020

- Attempting to provide services throughout King County with a team of only 3 people is extremely challenging.
- Sexually Transmitted Infections- small but significant increase in cases, follow up takes time
- Limited access to harm reduction services in South King County
- Development of trauma informed de-escalation training and burn out prevention for staff
- Hotel housing- improvement in health
- Quality improvement project with Jail Health Services Release Planners to improve referral and psychiatric medication adherence;
- Routine engagement with demographic and geographic data reports to better understand who is, and who is not, being connected to services.

January 1 - December 31st 2020

Total patients: 1,199      Total visits =2,061

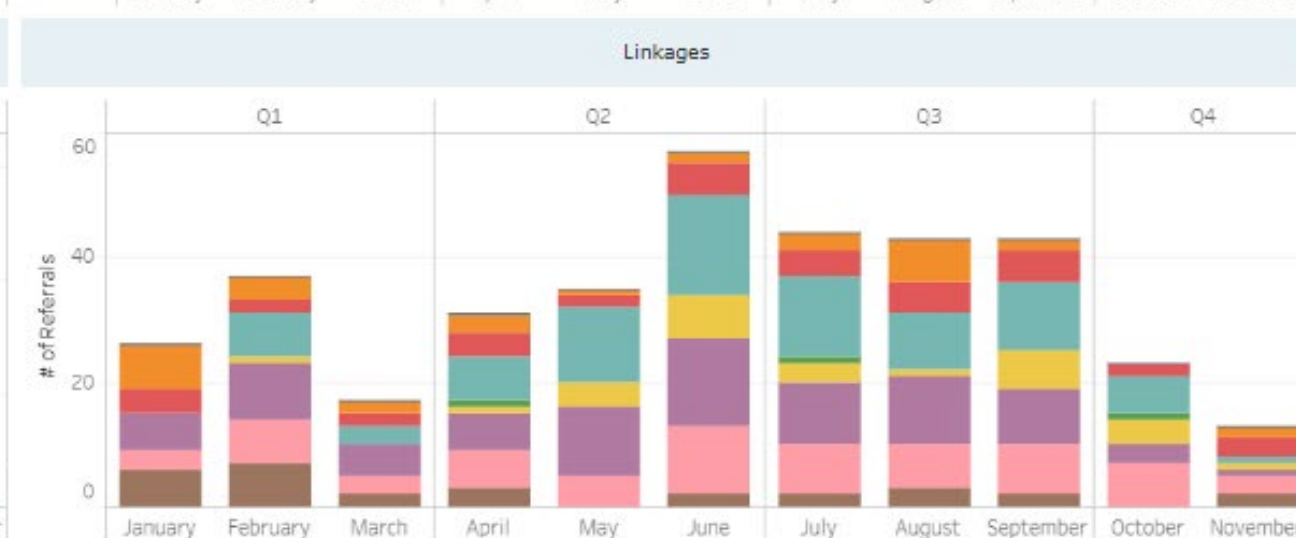
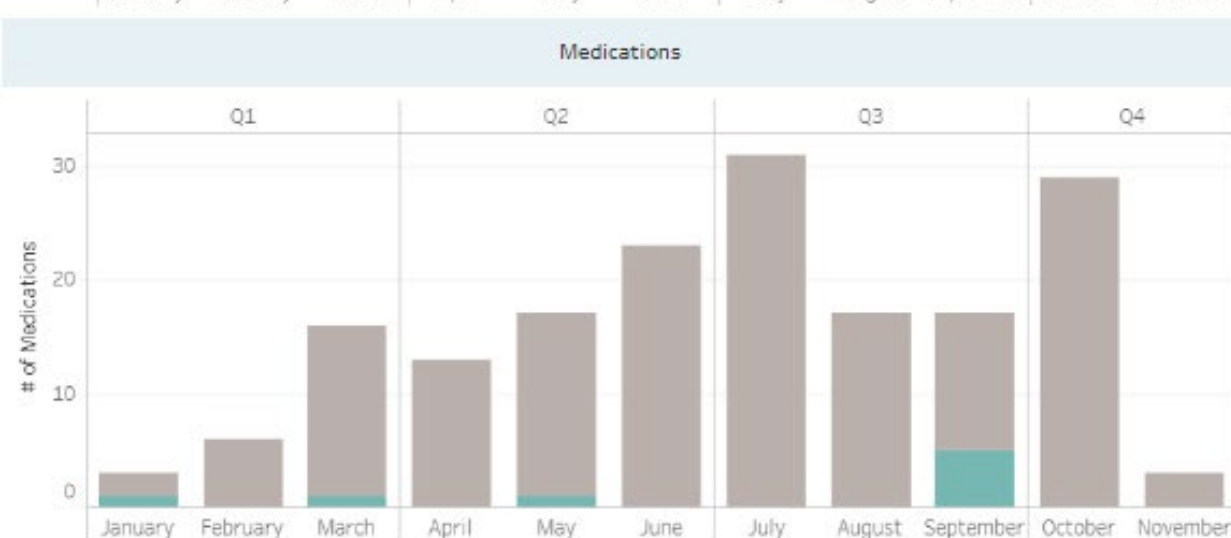
Estimated 3% have OUD Diagnosis (twice the general population)

*Tracking challenges, epic in the field*

*Team created simple demographic sheet to help track who we are seeing*

View performance by:

Site: (All) City: (All) Provider Last Name: (All) Quarter of Date of Service: (All) Month of Date of Service: (All)



Medication Suboxone or Other

All Other Medications  
Suboxone

Referral Type

Null  
Basic Needs  
Behavioral Health  
Benefits  
Canceled  
Dental  
Health Care  
Housing  
Substance Use