

Adventist Health

2021



This client is well known to the Adventist SRN team. He suffers from mental illness, poor impulse control and has a seizure disorder. He is also without SSD, consequently he has no money except what he panhandles. He was awarded SSD as child for mental health issues and cancer of the bone marrow. He did receive radiation treatment and he was cured but lost his income when he briefly was married. He has camped here in Marysville for the last 9 years. He was severely abused as a child and was removed from his parent's care. He has no local family and very few, if any, friends. He is a challenge as he has no short-term memory. He is sure that this very frustrating condition was from the brain radiation as a child. Regardless of the cause it creates a very large challenge to work with him. The Street Nurse team advocated for this patient to begin to receive service at Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health, at which time they had decided they would not see him, stating they knew him and he did not qualify for services.

The SRN team had to do additional advocating and insist they re-evaluate him. After the evaluation they took him on as a client and agreed that he presented much worse than they had initially guessed. They assigned him a case manager and this case manager worked with him on medication compliance and also attended and transported him to all primary care doctor appts. When COVID broke out SYBH provided hotel assistance for this individual for one month, the following month this individual used his stimulus check to cover the cost of the motel. At that time SYBH had declined to work with this client going forward stating the patient no longer qualified for services. Knowing this couldn't be accurate we called upon a new program being developed within the SYBH realm, the HEART team. The HEART team is designed specifically to reach out to those individuals who are homeless and who also have an underlying mental health condition. The HEART team agreed to take this client on and agreed to continue to case manage him, provide him medication reminders, provide him transportation to appointments, and to also attend appointments with him. The client still needed a way to pay for his hotel for the months to come. At this time the SRN team reached out to the county and got the client enrolled in the HDAP program. This program pays for housing while assisting in the process of obtaining social security. HDAP agreed to take the client on and agreed to pay for his hotel until his social security was again granted. Since our first encounter to now, this client has improved. He was coming to the emergency room every day, or every other day. His ED visits have drastically reduced to near zero for a month. He now has a doctor which the SRN team has a relationship with. He takes all medication as

prescribed and has had far fewer seizures. Most recently The Street Nurse attended a neurological appointment with him via conference call as at Sutter Neurological institute in Sacramento. Dr. Sekon was very impressed and happy that she had a reliable person to help him and relay pertinent information as well as guide him through the testing she is ordering. This client began working with legal aid to reinstate his SSD. Through coordination of local community supports initiated by the street nurse program he was successful in getting SSD reestablished with back pay and has retained permanent housing.

Dealing with wounds while living on the streets can be especially difficult. The recovery process can be long and painful. Living rough can also make the individual hard to locate during outreach hours. The street nurse team works diligently to complete outreach and find the individuals who have wounds that need cleaned and bandaged. Recently, Anthony Thomas was seen by the street nurse team. Anthony has been homeless since December of 2018. He knows all too well the struggles of keeping his wound clean and dry. He often sleeps on cold, wet concrete and it is difficult to keep his feet dry especially during winter months. His chronic wound was cleaned, and his wound dressings were changed. The team was also able to perform a tele-doc appointment for Anthony to get antibiotics to help with the continued healing of his wound. Anthony repeatedly thanked the team for being on his side, assisting with his medical needs, giving a pair of dry socks, and for the simple task of listening to his stories. He told the team "I love you guys, thank you for caring."