

**UNHOUSED YOUTH IN LA: A
PERSPECTIVE ON PROVIDING HEALTH
CARE FROM CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
LOS ANGELES**



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(She/Her/Hers)

Homeless Adolescent Wellness
Center

DISCLOSURE

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I do not intend to discuss any unapproved/investigative use of commercial product(s) or device(s) in this presentation.



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that Children's Hospital Los Angeles is included in the region of the ancestral and traditional lands of the Hamog'na Tongva people

The Tongva people historically inhabited the Los Angeles area

We honor their connection to this region and give honor and thanks for the opportunity to live, learn, and work on their traditional homeland

Please give respect and honor to the indigenous people and their elders, past and present



OBJECTIVES

List

List a programmatic barrier faced by the clinical team that impedes provision of health care to youth experiencing homelessness

Identify

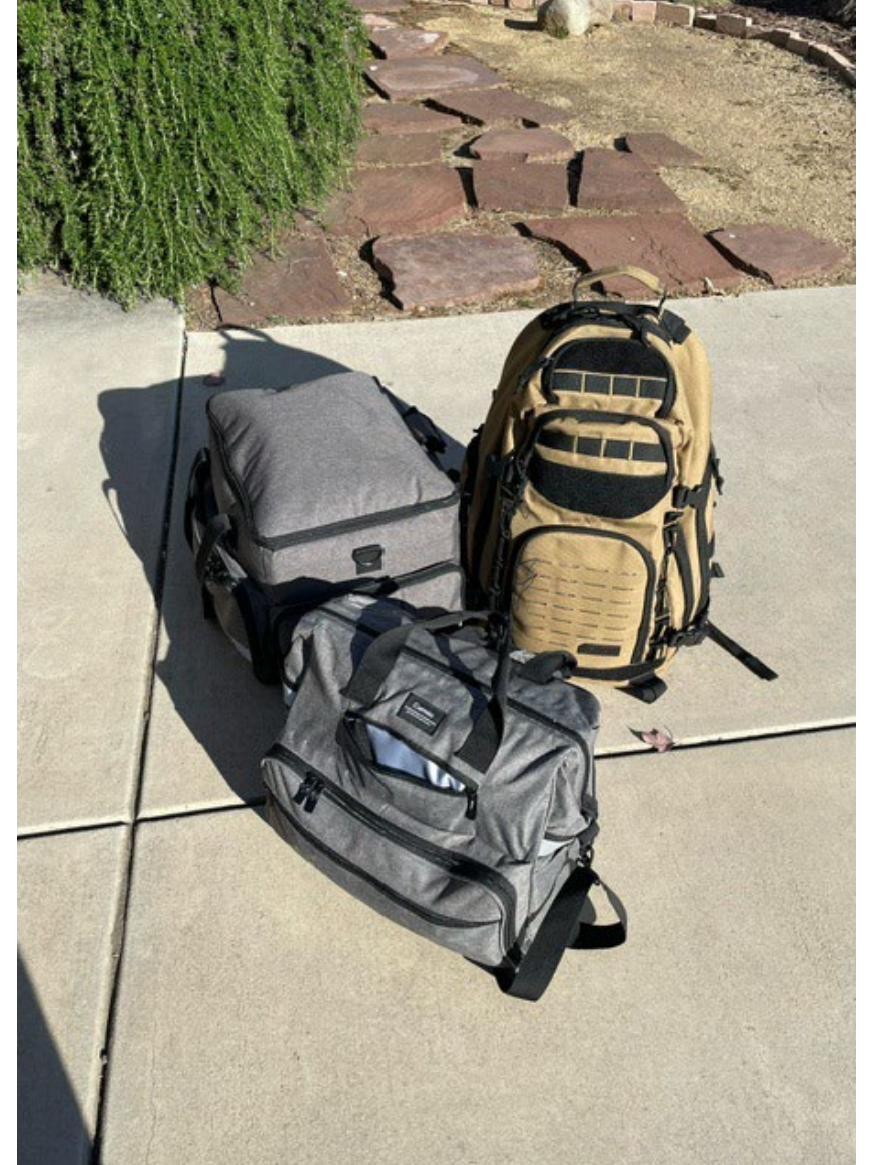
Identify a characteristic of adolescent and young adult development that makes providing effective health care to unhoused youth challenging

Describe

Describe a component of clinical care for youth experiencing homelessness that you can integrate into your practice

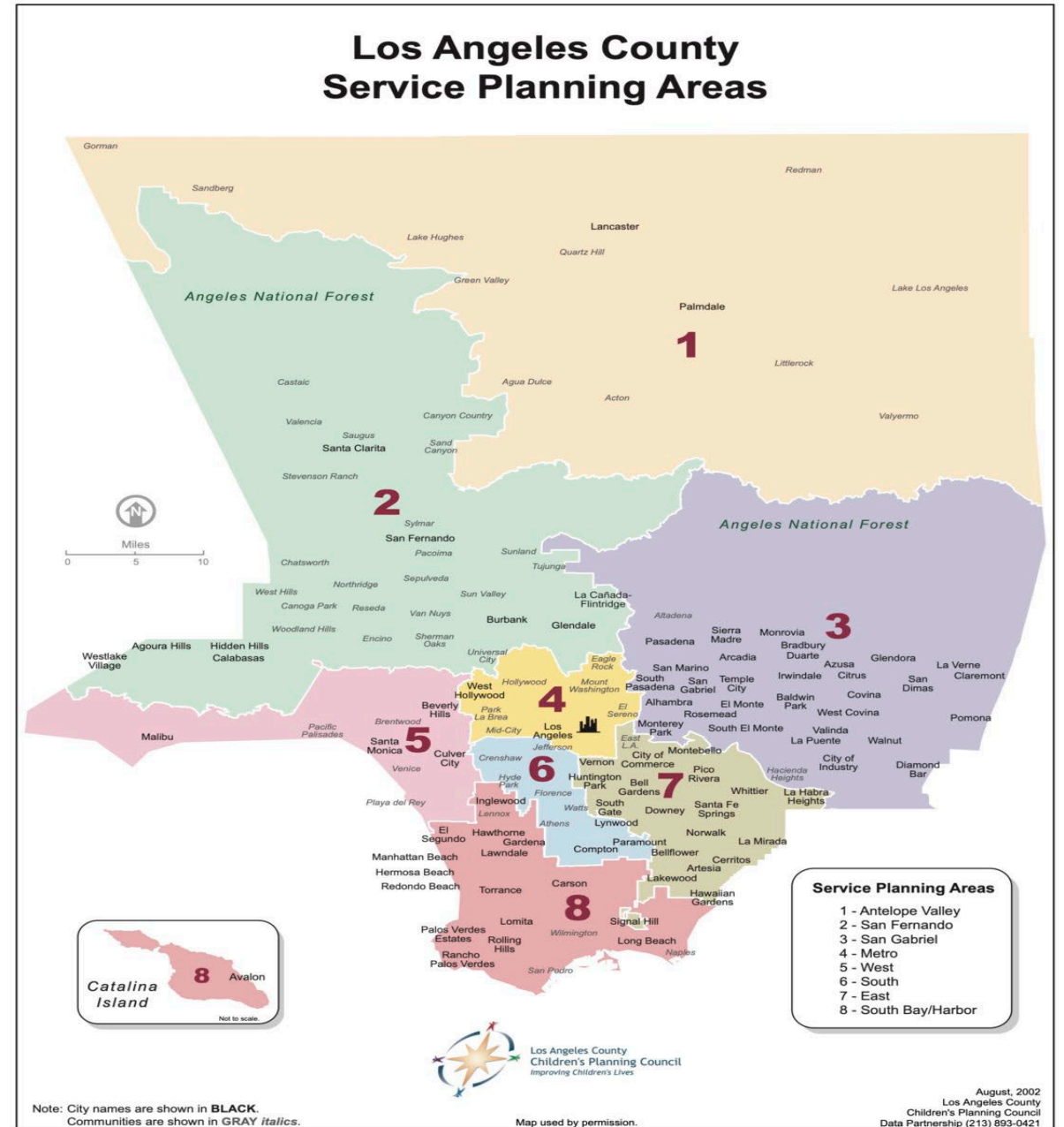
HAWC OUTREACH TEAM: WHO ARE WE?

- HOT consists of a Nurse Practitioner and a Program Specialist who provide integrated health services to unhoused youth from 12 – 24 years old
- Youth are seen at drop-in centers, shelters, and transitional living facilities
- Clinical services provided onsite at Covenant House Los Angeles
- We are mobile, using our personal vehicles to transport ourselves and clinic supplies to outreach sites

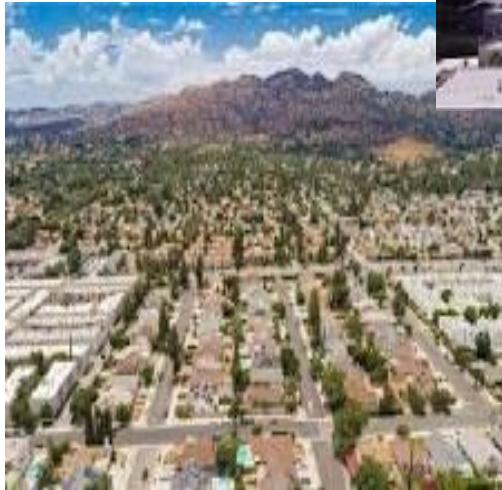


WHERE DO WE GO?

- The Way In/Salvation Army
- LGBT Center Los Angeles
- The Village/Hope of the Valley
- Jovenes, Inc.
- Good Seed
- Covenant House/Los Angeles campus
- Volunteers of America
- My Friend's Place
- Home at Last



HAWC CALENDAR:



HAWC OUTREACH TEAM March 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
 DIVISION OF ADOLESCENT AND YOUNG ADULT MEDICINE				1 Covenant House Clinic 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM ALL ARE WELCOME
4 My Friend's Place 10:00AM-2:00PM Covenant House Clinic 1:30 - 4:00 PM ALL ARE WELCOME	5 VOA 09:00AM-11:30AM The Village 12:00-2:30PM	6 VOA South 09:00AM-12:00PM Covenant House Clinic 1:00 - 4:00 PM ALL ARE WELCOME	7 VOA 09:00AM-12:00PM The Village 01:00PM-2:30PM	8 VOA South PPD readings Only Covenant House Clinic 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM ALL ARE WELCOME
11 Good Seed (Male and Female Shelter) 09:00AM - 12:00 PM 5th Ave (Good Seed) 01:00PM-03:45PM Covenant House Clinic 1:00 - 4:00 PM ALL ARE WELCOME	12 The Way In (Hollywood Site) 09:00AM-11:45AM LGBT Center 1:00-4:00PM	13 Good Seed & 5th Ave PPD readings Only Home of Last 09:00AM-12:00PM Covenant House Clinic And 1:00PM-4:00PM ALL ARE WELCOME	14 The Way In (Hollywood Site) 09:00AM-10:00AM LGBT Center 11:00AM-12:00PM	15 Home of Last PPD readings Only Covenant House Clinic 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM ALL ARE WELCOME
18 Mariposa -Jovenes Inc 09:30AM-1:00PM Covenant House Clinic 1:00 - 4:00 PM ALL ARE WELCOME	19 VOA 09:00AM-12:00PM The Village 01:00PM-3:30PM	20 Mariposa -Jovenes Inc 09:30AM-1:00PM Covenant House Clinic 01:00PM-4:00PM ALL ARE WELCOME	21 VOA 09:00AM-12:00PM The Village 01:00PM-3:30PM	22 Covenant House Clinic 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM ALL ARE WELCOME
25 Covenant House Clinic 1:00 - 4:00 PM ALL ARE WELCOME	26	27 Covenant House Clinic And 1:00PM-4:00PM ALL ARE WELCOME	28	29 Covenant House Clinic 09:00 AM - 12:00 PM ALL ARE WELCOME

Street Outreach with Dr. Mo: March 28, 2024

My Friend's Place: 5850 Hollywood Blvd., LA 90028 (323) 908-0011

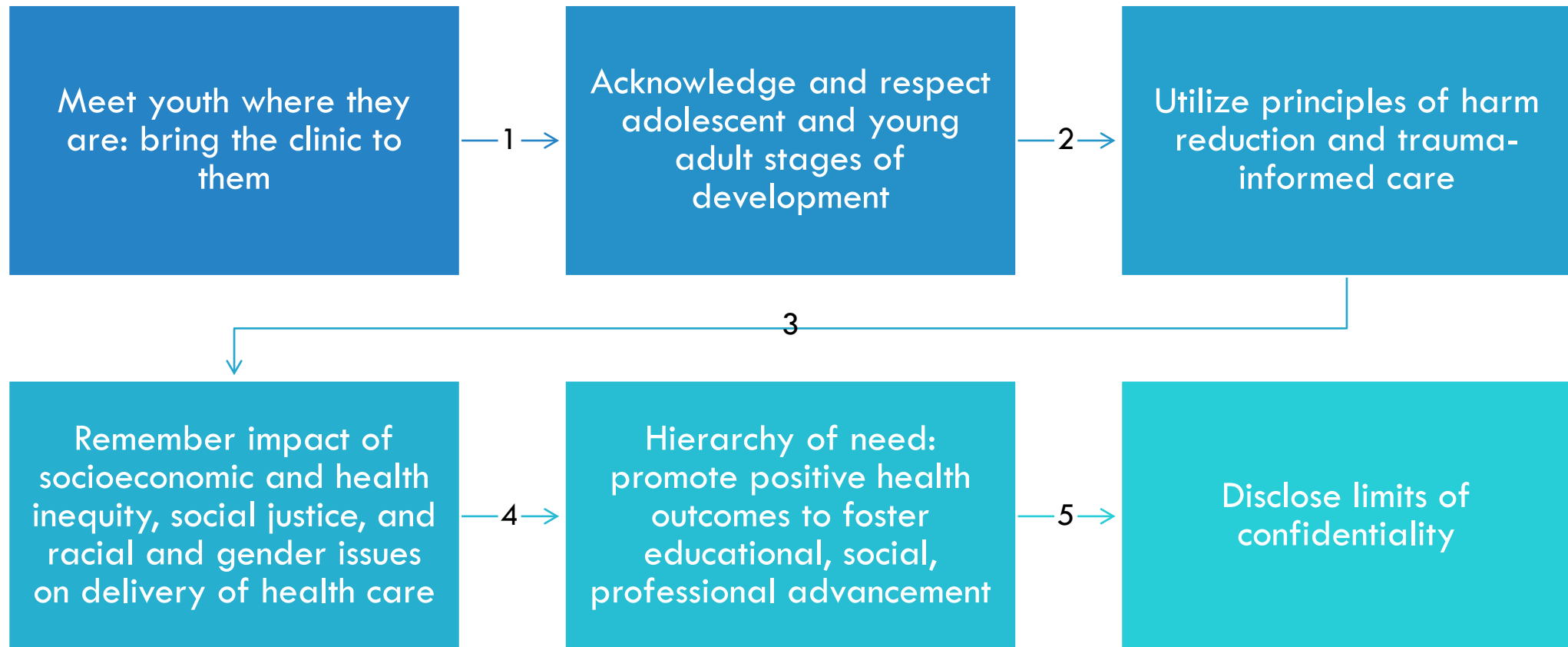
The Way In: 5939 Hollywood Blvd., LA 90028 (323) 469-2946

Covenant House: 1325 N. Western Ave., LA 90027 (323) 461-3131 Ext. 243 (For Appointments)

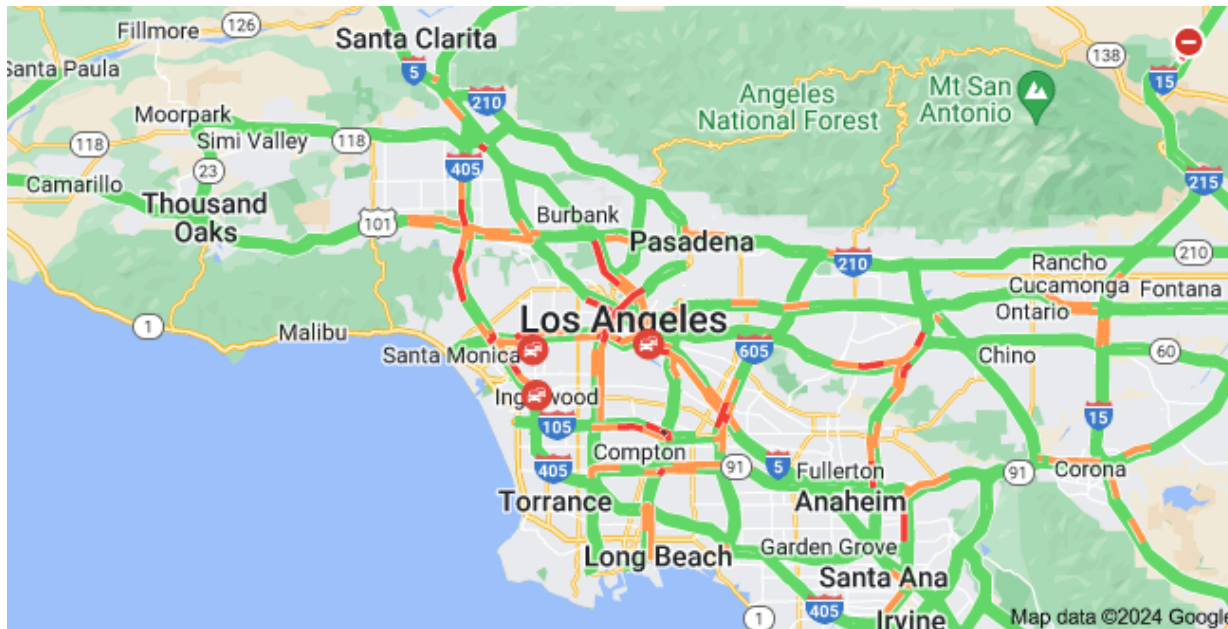
Ruth's Place: 4775 S Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90037 (323)432-2440

LGBT Center :1118 N. McCadden Place., LA 90038 (323) 860-2280

HAWC TENANTS OF CARE:



HAWC CHALLENGES:



Time and traffic

Pandemic and ongoing woes

Safety issues

Coordination and collaboration
with outreach sites

Adolescent and young adult
stages and rages

Grant funding: expectations
and obligations

HAWC SETTINGS:

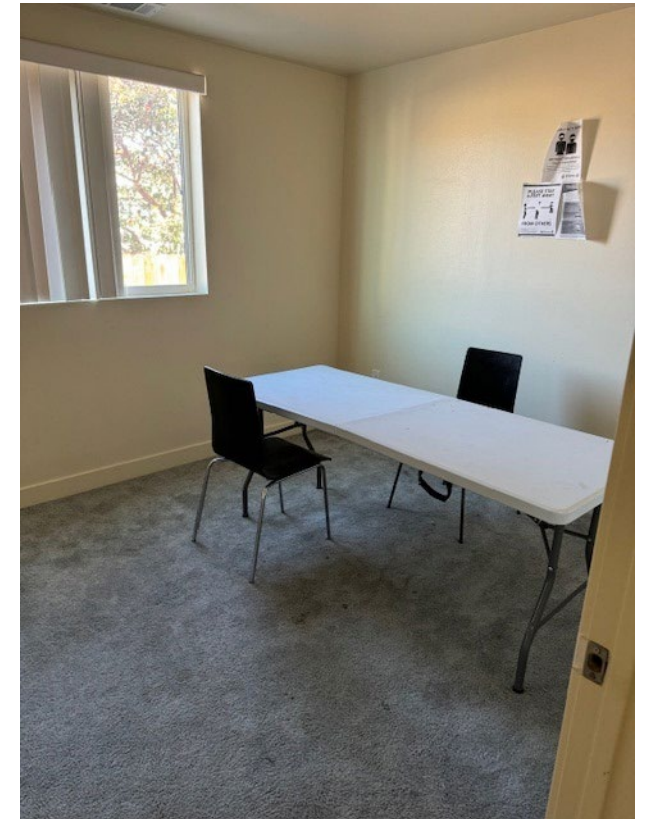
TABLE AND CHAIRS

OUTLETS

WI-FI

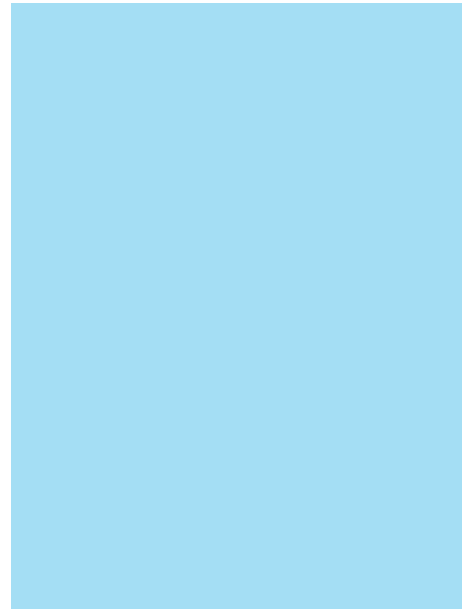
ROOM WITH A DOOR
FOR PRIVACY

BATHROOM



HAWC VISIT:

- Initial Encounter: Registration; behavioral health assessment (PHQ-9, GAD-7); HEADSS; medical history; substance use inventory; sexual health history; brief/problem-focused exam
- Plan of Care: TB screening, pregnancy testing, HIV/STI screening (approved sites); minor wound care
- Medication Dispensing (Rx and OTC)
- Survival Needs: Hygiene kits; tents; sleeping bags; clothing; donation du jour
- Coordination with agency Staff; referral to PCP or Covenant House clinic; triage to emergency room or urgent care



TB SCREENING:

- Mandatory for housing
- Methods: PPD; chest x-ray; Quant Gold blood test
- Follow-up in 48 – 72 hours
- Referral for positive PPD
- A lot can happen in 2 days...

Tuberculosis (TB)

Homeless Shelter TB Screening Fact Sheet



TUBERCULOSIS (TB) TESTING AND SCREENING FOR HOMELESS SHELTER TB CLIENTS



1. What are the symptoms of TB?

- Coughing for more than 2 weeks
- Pain in chest
- Fever
- Chills
- Night sweats
- Coughing up blood and/or mucus
- Weight loss
- No appetite
- Shortness of breath

2. What is a TB test like?

- A medical provider will ask you a few questions to learn if you have any TB symptoms, or if you were around anyone with TB. The medical provider will then take a TB test. It may be a skin test, blood test, or a chest X-ray.

3. How often should I be TB tested?

- Once before you enter the shelter
- Once a year, or per the rules of a shelter
- If you think that you've been in contact with someone with TB disease

4. How do I get TB clearance for shelter entry?

- You'll need to get paperwork from a medical provider showing that you had a TB test, and that there is no TB in your lungs.

5. What if I don't have a TB clearance at the time of shelter entry?

- Clients who need TB clearance will be referred for a TB screening either onsite or offsite. They must bring back the TB clearance paperwork within 7 days of shelter entry.

For More Information

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Tuberculosis Control Program
(213) 745-0800 or visit www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/tb

HAWC CASE STUDY # 1:

FG is a 20 y/o Honduran male newly admitted into a 60-day male shelter in Hollywood. Needs a health check and TB screen for shelter requirement

Denies chronic medical issues

TB status unknown other than receiving the BCG vaccine in early childhood

Complains of intermittent dysuria for 1 month

Identifies as heterosexual
Has 1 female sexual partner who is in first trimester of pregnancy with who he shares 1 child with

Has an additional female sexual partner who he has condomless sex with

Last HIV/STI screening unknown

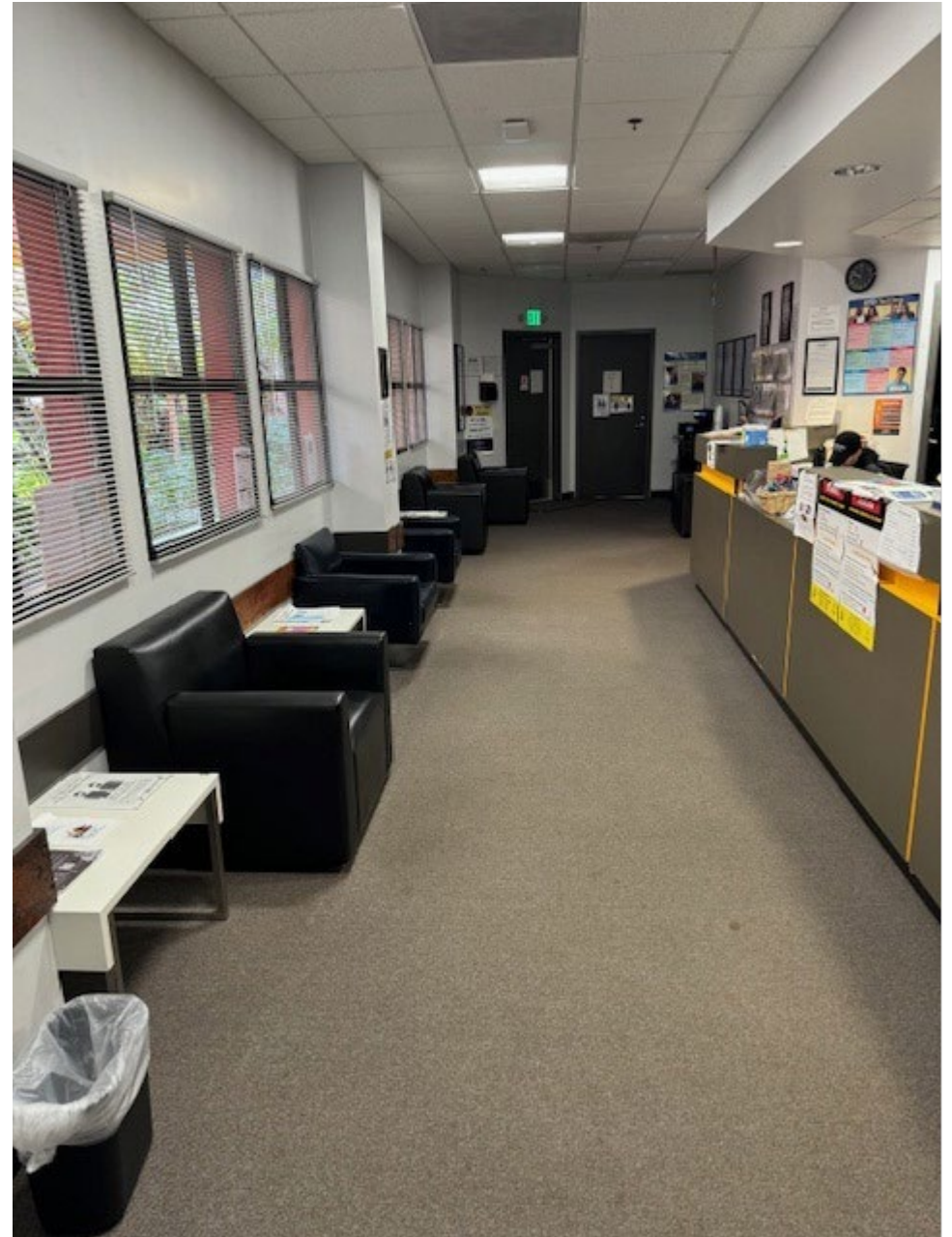
PLAN OF CARE:

- Problem focused exam
- Provide education and choice to have a PPD placed vs. send for CXR or blood test
- PPD skin test placed
- Referral for follow-up testing at Covenant House clinic: STI and HIV screening; empiric treatment for presumptive STI
- Insurance eligibility: undocumented, needs referral for benefits

Competing Priorities and roadblocks:

- Client attending school (difficult to make walk-in clinic appointment)
- Client went to arranged appointment 3 days later at an alternate site, provider left for the day
- Delayed testing and empiric treatment
- Presumptive continued exposure of STI to pregnant girlfriend and other partner due to condomless sex

COVENANT HOUSE CLINIC:



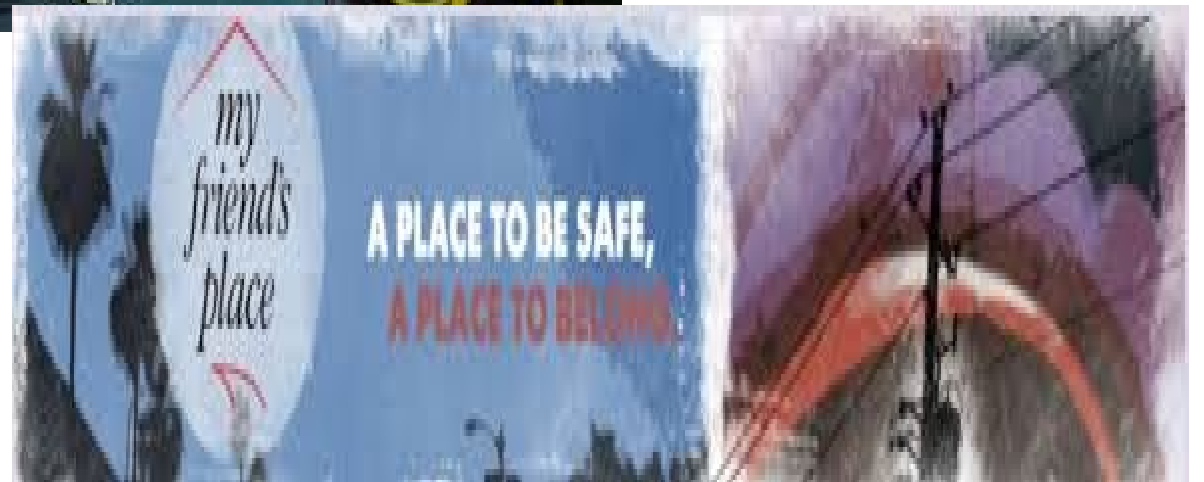
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

- Client eventually seen/evaluated at shelter clinic 1 week later
- Dysuria persists; client has not notified any sexual partners of STI concern and continues to have condomless sex
- HIV/STI screening tests performed (HIV, RPR, GC & CT urine); client declined site specific screening of throat or rectum
- Empiric treatment for GC and CT administered (Ceftriaxone 500 mg IM x 1 dose and Doxycycline 100 mg BID x 7 days)
- Pt declined to take treatment to partners; advised to disclose that they both need testing/treatment; advised pelvic rest for minimum of 7 days after treatment
- Follow-up in 1 week
- Pt lost to follow-up for over 2 weeks; Doxycycline treatment was not completed

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT (CONT'D)?

- Next clinic follow-up; lab results reviewed; client positive for urogenital chlamydia
- Repeat treatment with Doxycycline x 7 days
- Pregnant girlfriend came to clinic but declined to check-in and under limits of confidentiality, unable to disclose why she should be seen today.
- Condoms dispensed
- Follow-up test for re-infection in 1 month at clinic and while in the field
- Education, education, education

HAWC SITE: MY FRIEND'S PLACE





The Way In/Salvation Army
LGBT Center Los Angeles

HAWC OUTREACH SITES:

HAWC CASE STUDY #2:

SC is a 22 y/o Black female newly admitted into a 60-day co-ed shelter in the valley area. Needs health check and TB screen for shelter requirement. Last PPD placement/result unknown

PMH: eczema (treated with Rx and OTC topicals); H/O intermittent asthma, using rescue albuterol inhaler frequently

Behavioral health Hx:
Depression; anxiety; panic attacks; difficulty sleeping; linked to therapy at community clinic with visits every 2 weeks

Not currently taking psychotropic meds

Identifies as heterosexual. Disclosed 1 or more male sexual partners over 2 months ago. Most sexual activity condomless

Pt interested in Depo shot for contraception

Sex trafficked in past and disclosed transactional sex for survival needs

Has a 3 y/o daughter living with paternal grandfather

Last HIV/STI screening 6 months ago and needed treatment for chlamydia in 2023

PLAN OF CARE:

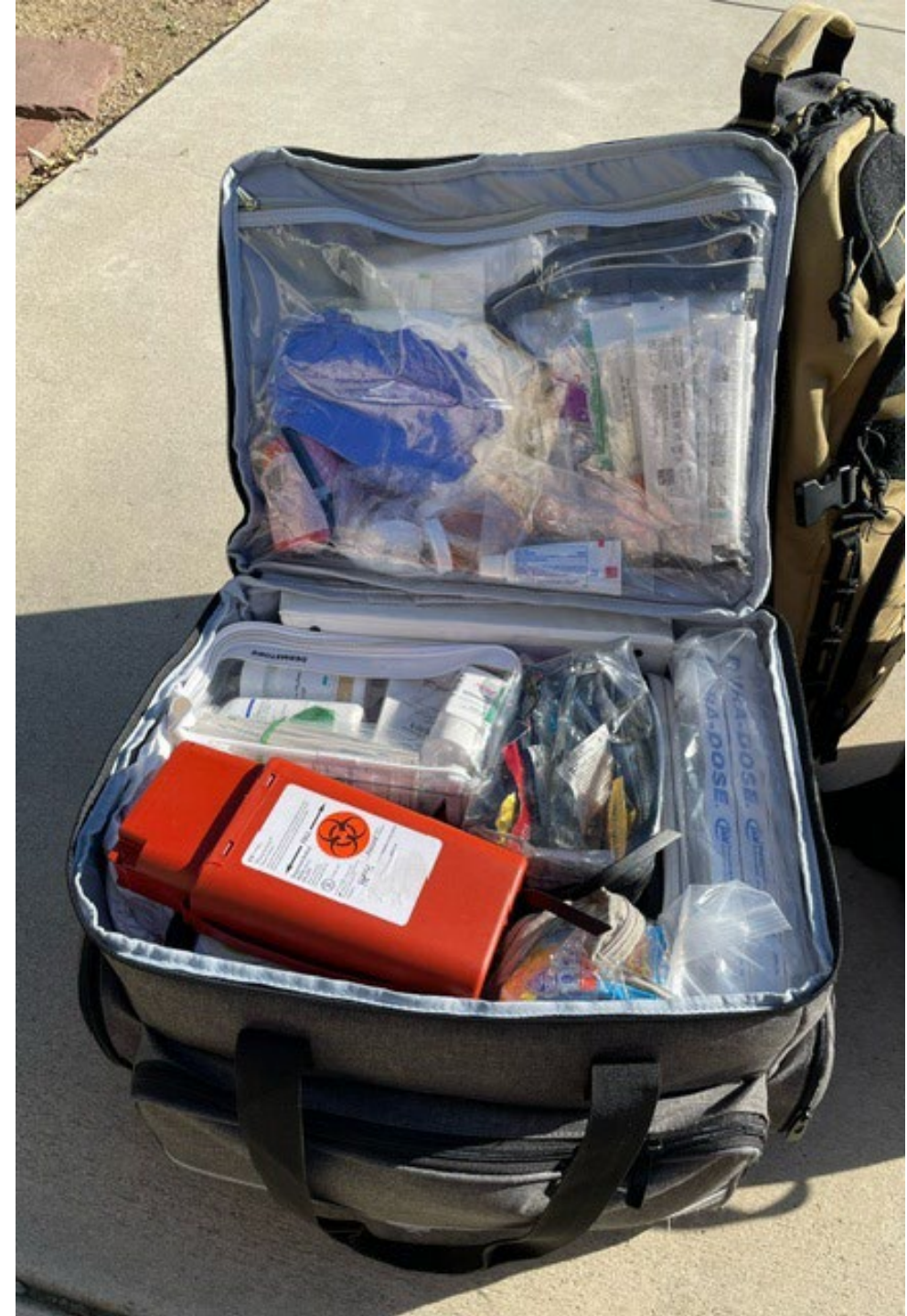
- Problem-focused exam
- PPD placement
- Sexual health history: Denies acute GU symptoms; LMP started 3 days prior and continues today
- Insurance eligibility: PCP information provided for follow-up primary care
- No medication dispensed; pt has adequate topicals and albuterol
- Education provided about appropriate use of rescue inhaler; pt may be using albuterol to relieve anxiety symptoms

Competing Priorities and roadblocks:

- Multiple appointments (DPSS, job interview) that make staying at shelter difficult
- Requesting contraception on first visit (need to pick-up at office) so plan to give Depo shot with PPD reading in 2 days
- Impatient patient

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

- Pt left shelter the morning of follow-up visit and was found walking down the block by Program Specialist
- Pt has an urgent appointment but wants Depo shot ASAP
- Declined urine pregnancy test stating last condomless sex over 2 months ago and has had 2 normal periods since, LMP finished morning of this visit
- Depo administered and condoms dispensed
- Advised pt to speak with therapist about developing tools to use when feeling anxious or panic attack (instead of using albuterol)
- Advised to follow-up with PCP for eczema and asthma follow-up and for next Depo due in 12 weeks; recommended PAP screening and immunization updates
- Education, education, education



HAWC PEARLS:

Meet youth where they are

Develop rapport; may be a slow process depending on what the youth has experienced

Involve client in plan of care and offer choices

Stay curious, ask questions

Disclose limits of confidentiality, ask permission to disclose to staff about plan of care

Provide incentives when available (gift cards, swag)

Stay flexible and adapt to the environment

Foster good will with agency staff

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Thanks for listening.



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