

Inter-disciplinary Team for Outdoor Congregants

Mission / Purpose

An Inter-disciplinary Team (IDT) comprised of various County and City agencies, departments and service providers has been convened to strengthen existing outreach activities to ensure a coordinated effort is in place to:

1. Develop and implement strategies to offer services to individuals congregating in public areas which will assist them in improving their well-being.
2. End the public use of illegal substances and other illegal activity at Binn's Park and other public areas in the City which constitute a hazard to public health, safety and welfare.

All members of the IDT have agreed to the above goals. The initial focus of the IDT is on individuals congregating in Binn's Park and Lennox Lane. Current and previous outreach efforts have determined that there are three general challenges for the people congregating in these areas... homelessness, mental/behavioral health needs, and substance abuse/addiction. Individuals may be experiencing one, two or all three of these challenges simultaneously, hence the need for a sustained multi-faceted/inter-disciplinary approach.

Each member of the IDT brings its expertise and resources, which are integrated into a coordinated approach. The main resources and services include:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| * Shelter / affordable housing | * Employment | * Medical review & treatment |
| * Food | * D&A outreach & treatment | * Showers and laundry |
| * Behavioral health treatment | * Consistent outreach | * Law enforcement |

IDT Members

County Government:

- Adult Probation and Parole
- Bail Administration
- Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- Chief Clerk
- County Commissioners
- Court of Common Pleas
- District Attorney
- Drug & Alcohol Commission
- Public Defenders Office
- Prison Re-Entry Program
- Sheriff's Department

City Government:

- Administration
- Police Department

Community Agencies:

- Blueprints Recovery (Second Chances)
- Community Action Program
- Community Services Group
- Lanc Co MyHome / Homeless Coalition
- Tabor/LHOP
- Workforce Development Board/CareerLink

Method

The IDT has established protocols for communications and coordination of efforts. Paramount to overall success is the synchronization of the functions of law enforcement, the courts, and probation/parole to ensure that public health, safety and welfare standards are maintained, and, on the individual level, to encourage personal accountability and incentivize utilization of available resources. A phased approach recently commenced with the coordinated outreach of services including housing, behavioral health and D&A treatment. This will be followed by a concerted effort to enforce existing regulations in the public spaces. This approach recognizes that individual and community wellness are inexorably intertwined.