

# HEALTHCARE

## for the unsheltered in Pierce County

Community Partner: Pierce Co. Medical Reserve Corp

Elton Chau, Danielle Divinagracia, Olivia Esparza, Jacquelyn Hong, Keenen Kakuda, Kiara Landon, Fernando Libor, Mike Slagle, Sandy Thach, Claire Thorstad, Amy Wakatake, Jordan Westerman



### BACKGROUND

People suffering from homelessness have **increased** health complications and die on *average 12 years* sooner than the general public. Last quarter, UWT Bachelor of Science Nursing peers identified the barriers which were **governmental, healthcare system, mental health** and **poverty**.

### METHODS

- Reviewed **UWT BSN W2023's findings**
- Reviewed **qualitative and quantitative data** from peer-reviewed journal articles
- **Site visits** to organizations providing services
- Interviewed **community contacts** from Restoring and Igniting Self-Empowerment (RISE) Center, New Hope Resource Center, Cornerstone Medical Respite, Pierce County Public Health Department, We Care Daily Clinics & others

### GOVERNMENT BARRIERS

#### Housing

Pierce County: estimated 6500 homeless, forecasted to grow by 585 each year

- Housing stability = increased access to resources & longer lifespan

#### Safe Parking

Approximately 1,851 live in vehicles, only 35 spaces, 5 sites

- Needed: more sites, tax breaks, funding
- Nursing care on site
- Streamlined screening process



### FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### MENTAL HEALTH

#### Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) model

- Provides holistic and interdisciplinary patient-centered care

*Examples:*

- **Homeless Outreach Stabilization and Transition (HOST)** team.
- **Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT)** team

### HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

#### SB5236

- Increases availability of nurses
- Improves quality of care = better access for all

#### Mobile Health Clinics

- Bring services to the client
- Approved for Medicaid reimbursement

### POVERTY

#### Tiny Homes

Safe and secure temporary housing space to overcome housing instability and move forward for a stable future

- Each small housing units are equipped with furniture, insulation, and amenities.
- Case managers and house managers provided to assist individual cases

#### Career Training

*Job Corps:*

- Help ages 16-24 complete high school education, GED, & college credits
- Trains for careers & assists with job placement
- Provides tuition, free housing, meals, basic health care, a living allowance & career transition assistance

*Goodwill:*

- Offers free job training and educational programs
- Offers youth programs as well
- Digital Equity Bus