



SAFESTREETS

Oct. 27, 2017

Success story: COET helps dad get into treatment, housing

EVERETT – *From time to time, we'll share streets reports and successes from our police, social workers and other City staff. Today's story comes from Kaitlyn Dowd, an embedded social worker with Everett Police's Community Outreach and Enforcement Team (COET):*

In early June, I was contacted by Charles, someone who was not in regular communication with our Community Outreach and Enforcement Team (COET), so we were not familiar with him. The mother of Charles' child had seen a recent Facebook post regarding a past Safe Streets success story, and let Charles know that COET was a resource. He then took the initiative to contact me three days in a row and explained that he was not only in desperate need of treatment, but more importantly, he was *ready* for treatment.

His journey to recovery was a long one. Charles began using drugs when he was in his late teens, but did a good job hiding his habit from his family. At that time, he was into heroin.

He eventually quit using and began taking methadone, a medication used to treat addiction to opiates and ease withdrawal symptoms. He started a relationship and had a child with his partner, who was unaware of his prior drug use, and continued his methadone use.

Charles was stably employed for a while, but began using meth and heroin, which resulted in him losing his job, and his insurance. It took some time, but his loved ones found out about his use, and they distanced themselves from him. This led to him becoming homeless. At that time Charles had been using methadone for approximately 10 years, and had steadily worked his way up to 100 mg a day.

Without insurance, Charles could no longer afford the treatments, so the methadone clinic began an 8-day taper to wean him off the medication. As Charles tapered, he began experiencing sickness similar to withdrawals. Around this time is when he first reached out to me.

We were able to secure him a bed date at a treatment facility in Florida, and but before he was able to go, he first had to go into detox locally. While he was there, he was given a sedative that

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counteracted the methadone taper and he experienced severe hallucinations. He was transported for medical care, but due to the effects of the counteraction, he lost his bed date in Florida.

Once he recovered, we regrouped and got him a new bed date at Bella Monte Recovery Center in California, through the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI), and then into detox again at Evergreen Recovery. Charles stayed in treatment for 66 days.

While he was away, I secured a Law Enforcement Social Worker (LESW) Housing Voucher through Snohomish County Human Services, which guaranteed that he would have a place to live when he arrived back in Everett. When we picked him up from the airport in September, we brought him to complete an intake for intensive outpatient services.

We transported him to his new home, and were able to provide him with bedding, clothing, and other basic-needs supplies, which could not have been possible without the help of Goodwill and the [Safe Streets Flex Fund](#). Charles is working hard to get back on track, and wants to be the best father that he can be.

Learn more about the [Community Streets Initiative](#) or the [Everett Safe Streets Plan](#).

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