



Street Medicine: Practical Application of Love and Solidarity

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USC Street Medicine



Gandhi provides the compass



“When in doubt call to mind the face of the poorest or weakest person you’ve ever seen. Ask yourself if that policy will be of any use to them.”

Defining Street Medicine

Street Medicine includes health and social services developed specifically to address the unique needs and circumstances of the unsheltered homeless delivered directly to them in their own environment.



Street Medicine Defined: APL 22-023

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BACKGROUND AND DEFINITION:

Street medicine refers to a set of health and social services developed specifically to

- ✓ Provided to an unsheltered individual in their **LIVED ENVIRONMENT**
- ✓ Services provided at shelters, mobile units, RV or other sites with a fixed, specified location **DOES NOT** qualify as street medicine
- ✓ If the mobile unit/RV goes **TO** the encampment and parks to see an individual, this is street medicine

| | | |
|----|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 27 | Outreach Site/ Street | <p>A non-permanent location on the street or found environment, not described by any other POS code, where health professionals provide preventive, screening, diagnostic, and/or treatment services to unsheltered homeless individuals.</p> <p>(Effective October 1, 2023)</p> |
|----|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

[https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coding/place-of-service-codes/place_of_service_code_set__!JkGBRS3n8cDS!hziQQRPIEPD9_K-gD-UzUm6Md9BfjMgwfnsC4PLrDMjkcnoYTE7M6OHgPCAQZB2Sem-Gei58F7iaLmdTHEKfB1zvjqKVVVjRxs\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coding/place-of-service-codes/place_of_service_code_set__!JkGBRS3n8cDS!hziQQRPIEPD9_K-gD-UzUm6Md9BfjMgwfnsC4PLrDMjkcnoYTE7M6OHgPCAQZB2Sem-Gei58F7iaLmdTHEKfB1zvjqKVVVjRxs$)

Continuum of Medical Outreach



Image from Street Medicine or Mobile Medical Unit? Considerations for Expanding Medical Outreach
National Health Care for the Homeless Council (nhchc.org)

Going to the People RADICALLY



DeSales Free Clinic at the Allentown Rescue Mission

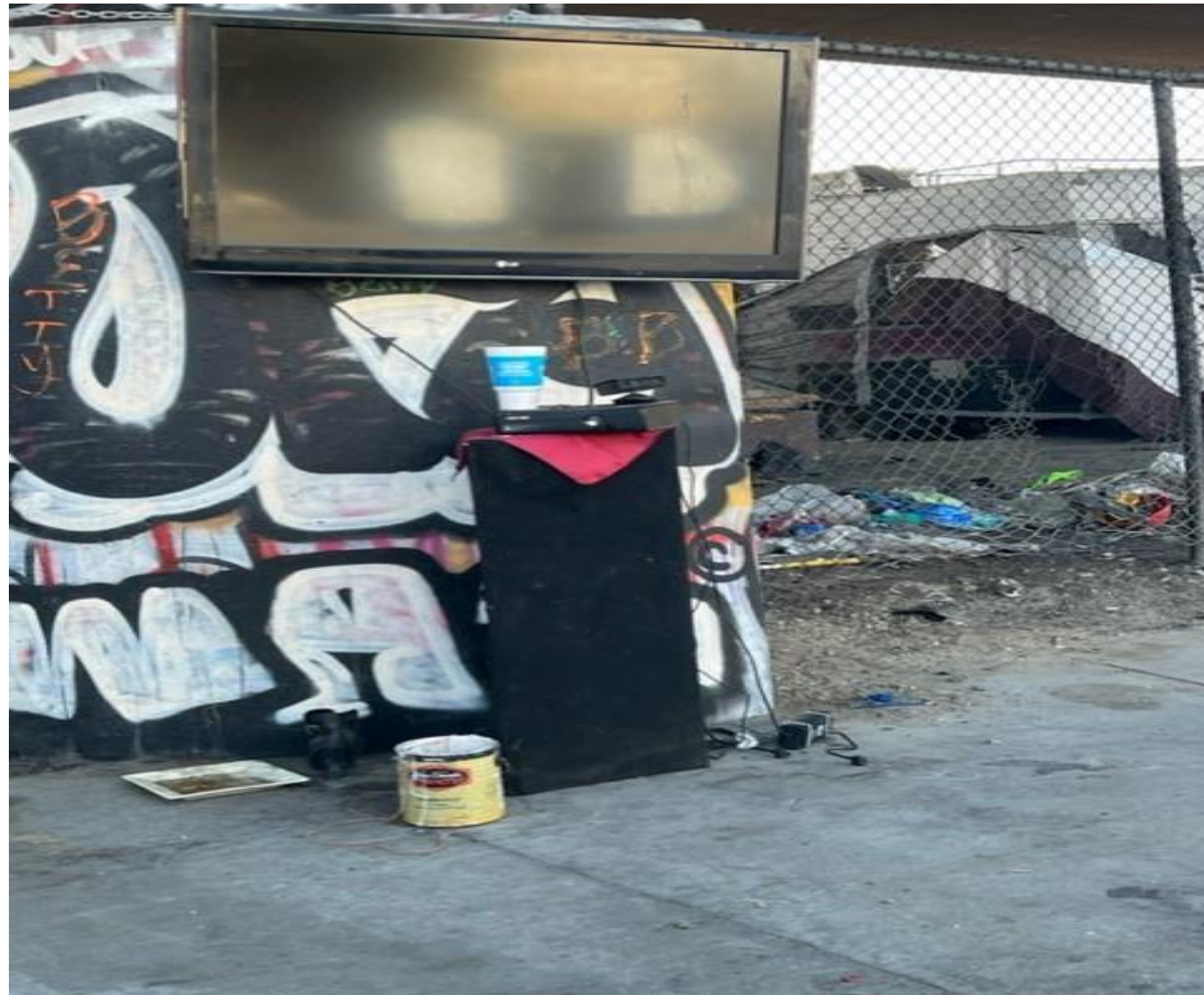












Los Angeles, CA



Washington, DC



Redding, CA



Denver, CO



“This area is closed for mitigation of Public Health Hazards.”



Delhi, India



For the love
of a child.....



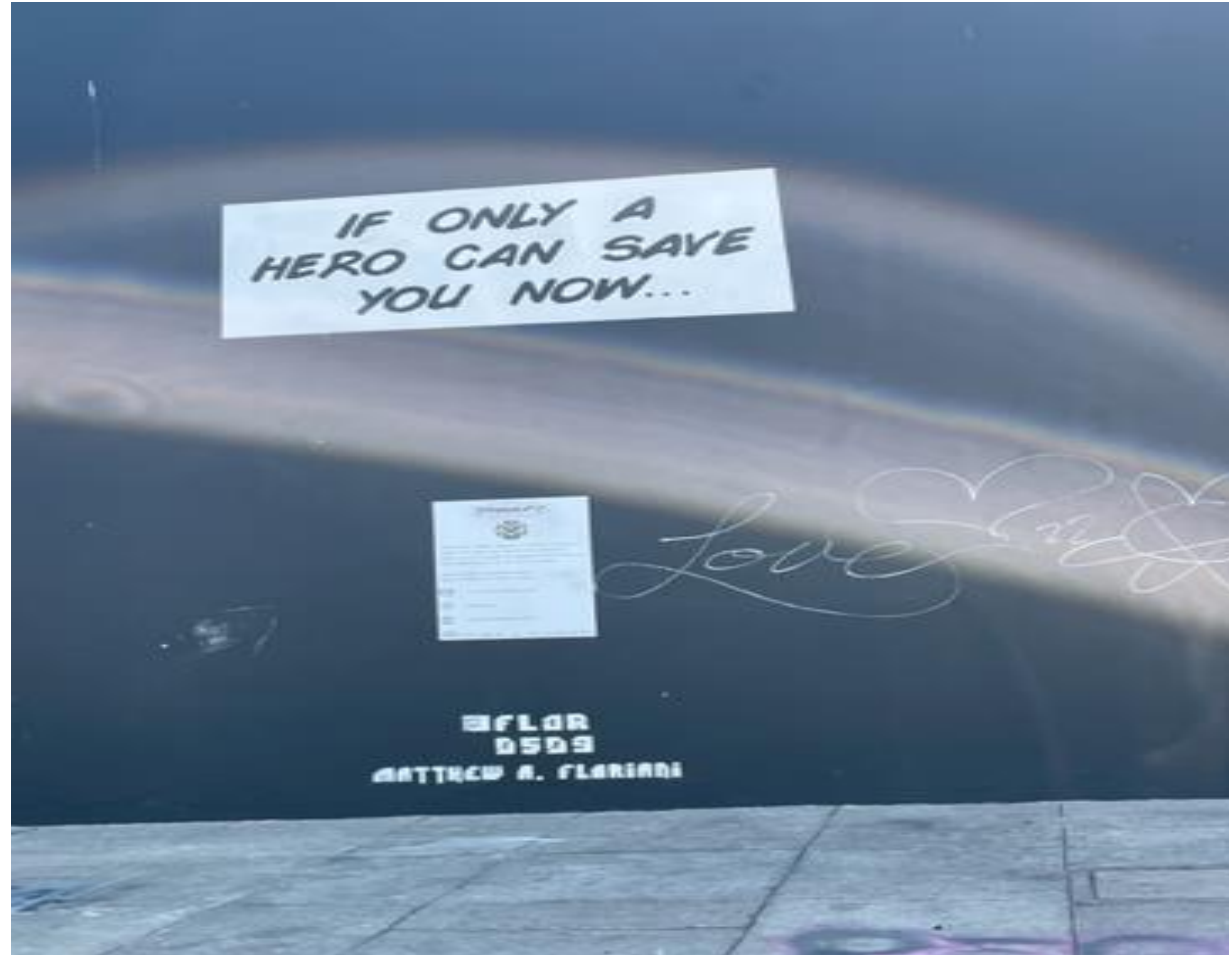
Bakersfield, CA



Easton, PA

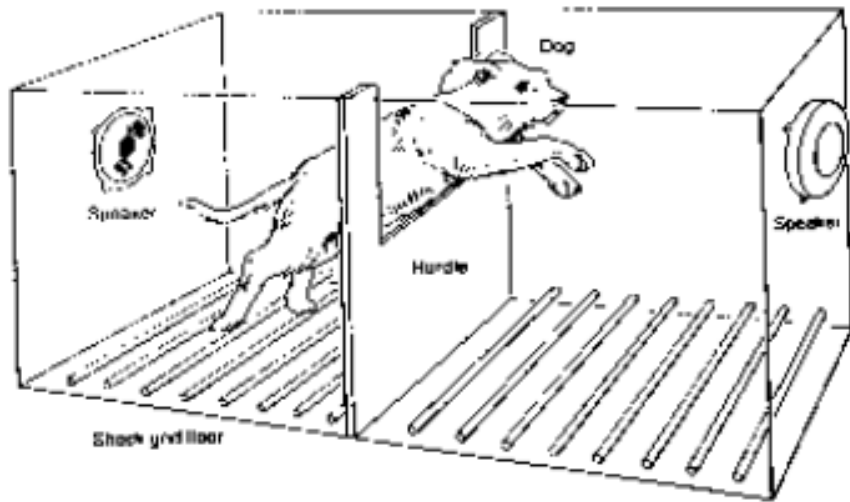


Oakland, CA





Learned Helplessness (Seligman, 1967)



- Repeated exposure to negative events which appear unavoidable
- If your behavior makes no difference, stop trying to escape even when escape is possible
- Stop trying to avoid repeated negative events

What we witness

- Destitution= extreme poverty+ social isolation
- Expulsion from society
- Deep rooted oppression
 - True representation mistrusted
 - Self-determination is mistrusted
- Dehumanization leading to spiritual homelessness

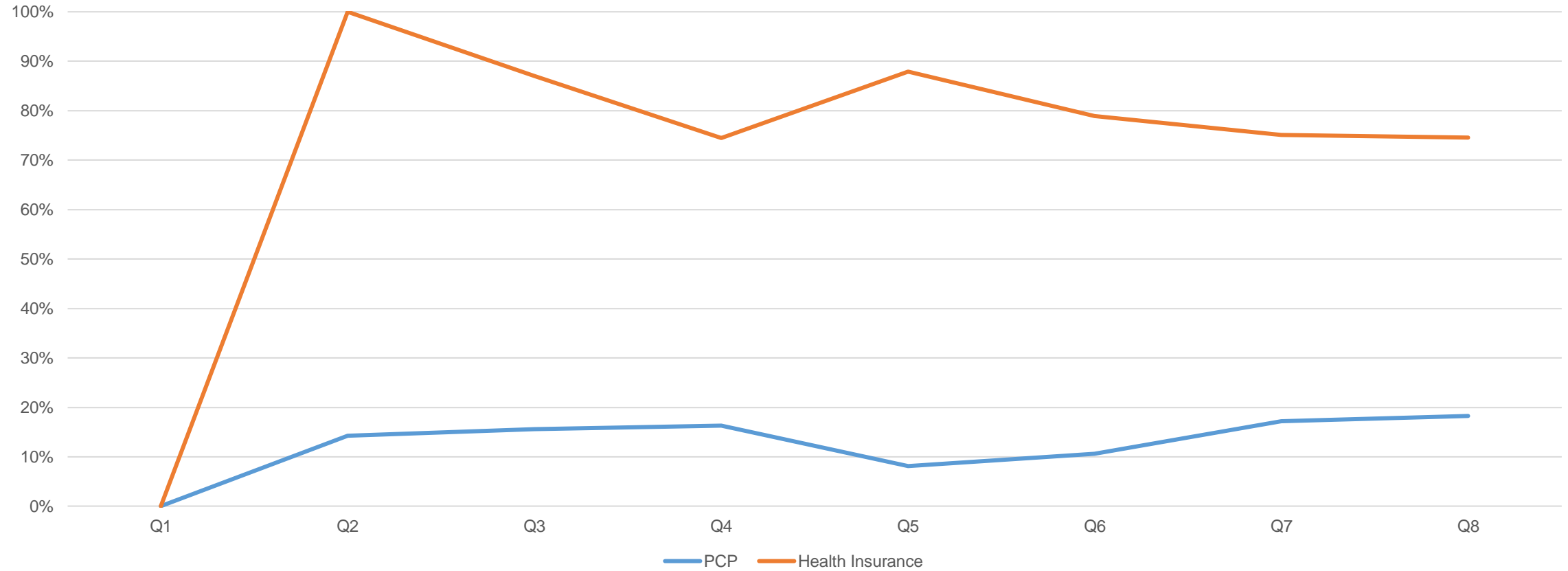
Discrimination in the Healthcare Setting

- **Distrust in physicians** and/or feel unwelcome in a healthcare setting
 - treated poorly or **discriminated against** in the past (1,2)
- “**Significant disparities** in in-hospital care and mortality between homeless and non-homeless adults with cardiovascular conditions.” (3)

1. Wen CK, Hudak PL, Hwang SW. Homeless people's perceptions of welcomeness and unwelcomeness in healthcare encounters. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2007 Jul;22(7):1011-7
2. Martins DC. Experiences of homeless people in the health care delivery system: a descriptive phenomenological study. *Public Health Nurs.* 2008 Sep-Oct;25(5):420-30
3. Wadhwa RK, Khatana SAM, Choi E, et al. Disparities in Care and Mortality Among Homeless Adults Hospitalized for Cardiovascular Conditions. *JAMA Intern Med.* 2020;180(3):357–366. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2019.6010

Insurance ≠ Access

Percentage of Patients Who Have:
A PCP, Health Insurance





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LA- MLKCH



Bakersfield- Clinica Sierra Vista

San Diego- Father Joe's Village



LA- USC Street Medicine

Street Medicine Social Teaching

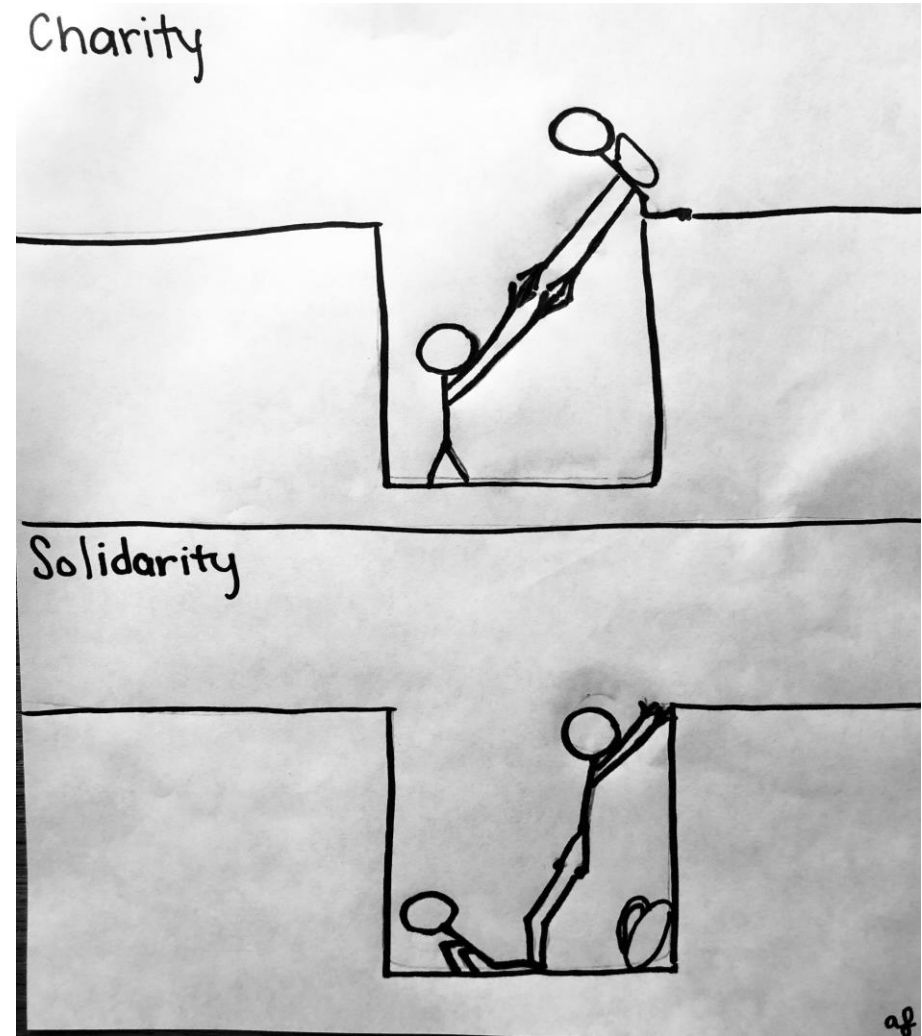
- Values manifest in action with practical application
- Foundational Values
 - Love with Grit
 - Authentic Solidarity
- Antidote to reducing medicine to a science
- Antidote to allowing our patients to be reduced to disease, a metric, or a possession

Love with Grit

- Not emotion but act of the will
- Small daily acts of sacrifice and suffering
- Freedom to serve
- Temptation to flee

Authentic Solidarity

Sharing in suffering with love
with grit



Solidarity Dissolvers

- Self-love/self-righteousness (includes institutional)
 - Expertise... “Listen to me, I’m the doctor/ service provider/ CBO.”
 - Moral Licensing... “I’ve cared for homeless people every day for 20 years.”
 - Cloaked Oppressor... “No margin, no mission”

The Culture of Possession

- Degradation of moral medicine: dehumanizing people as a commodity
 - Impact on our lives or organization
 - Metrics
 - View of efficiency
 - Managed care networks
 - Views of ROI reflects values
 - Ultimately leads to idea some lives are worth more than others

Authentic Solidarity Through Love

- Providers can search for the last person
- Clinics can care for their entire panel in addition to their waiting room
- Plans can give equitable payment to providers of members on the street
- Government can liberate by incentivizing equity for the last person

Programs built from streets in

- Let the Streets Build the Program
 - Scope of practice: ~~Transitional~~ Primary Care
 - Inform program design
 - Specimen collection
 - Dispensing meds
 - Dress
 - Vehicle
- Leads to praxis: practice distinguished from theory

Co-designing with the Street

- Consumer Input
 - Vote with 1 less F**K-you
 - Consumer Advisory Board
 - Dialogical ways to inform program and co-design
- Solidarity with the streets AND with each other

USC Street Medicine



**Hospital-
Based Consult
service**



**Street-Based
Care**



**Workforce
Development
Education**



Research



Advocacy



Radical commitment to the street

- Develop a street strategy, not a menu of services
- Community founded on mutual trust
- **Fight retreat from the street**
- **Fight regression into the system**
- Fall in love



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