



## CHW's Quick Action and Support Essential to Young Girls Road to Recovery

### Union Gospel Mission's Community Health Worker (CHW) is a Vital Position to Those They Serve

Union Gospel Mission is the largest emergency shelter in the Sioux Falls Area, providing shelter and meals for an average of 125 men, women, and children each night. The CHW program assists individuals and families within the shelter in navigating Social Determinants of Health needs and coordinating a transition from homelessness to housing.



**ROCHELLE (THE CHW)** STAYED WITH SAMARA THROUGH THE ENTIRE ADMISSIONS PROCESS, ASSISTED SAMARA WITH ROIs AND PAPERWORK, AND PROVIDED COUNSELORS AND NURSING STAFF WITH ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION. FURTHERMORE, ROCHELLE ADVOCATED FOR HALFWAY HOUSE PLACEMENT WITH INTENSIVE TREATMENT PROGRAMMING...

### CLIENT BACKGROUND

Union Gospel Mission (UGM) had a 19-year-old girl, whom we'll call Samara, that was asked to leave our residential program due to breaking the rules.

As a result of Samara's active addiction, she had repeatedly missed key program responsibilities and wouldn't be allowed to use our residential services for 90 days as a result of her relapse. She wanted to change, but didn't have a backup plan.

### SERVICES PROVIDED

When Samara came back to UGM to collect her belongings, one of our Community Health Workers, Roehelle, met with her. Samara was open and honest about her negative choices. Roehelle offered Samara the opportunity to continue her case management plan, with treatment being the main priority. Samara agreed.

Rochelle drove Samara to the Link where she was admitted for detox and triage. Over the next two hours, Rochelle contacted Samara's UGM Case Manager to gather information about where she had her recent drug and alcohol assessment completed, her attorney, her pretrial services representative, the treatment facility her assessment was completed, and the local residential treatment facilities to push for an immediate swing bed at an inpatient facility should one open.

Once it was confirmed Samara had been approved for state funding and would be allowed to check into detox, Rochelle was off and running again - contacting all of the same persons to confirm the plan of action and inform her legal representatives.

From there Rochelle called the Link who'd informed her they transferred Samara to a behavioral health unit. Rochelle then contacted that provider and requested an immediate self-harm evaluation to assess the level of liability and the possibility of her being discharged to be transported to inpatient treatment. Samara was cleared and Rochelle pick her up before she was discharged, along with picking up Samara's medications.

While waiting for Samara to be discharged, the behavioral unit nurses said they couldn't get her to cooperate and sign her discharge papers; they invited Rochelle onto the unit to see if she could get a different reaction out of Samara. Rochelle presented Samara with the facts about who she'd contacted, and how hard she'd worked to get this very rare opportunity laid ahead of Samara. Rochelle also informed Samara that it was very likely since she made legal representatives aware of the situation, that if Samara didn't take this opportunity, her bond could be revoked, and she'd be held until another bed date opened up at which point, she could potentially be furloughed, but it wasn't a guarantee. Rochelle then gave Samara the choice to continue with what she'd committed to only 3 hours before or continue to live in the frightening realities

of addiction. Samara chose to sign her discharge papers and go with Rochelle to Keystone.

Rochelle stayed with Samara through the entire admissions process, assisted Samara with ROIs and paperwork, and provided counselors and nursing staff with all pertinent information.

Furthermore, Rochelle advocated for halfway house placement with intensive treatment programming away from her people, places, and things (which was approved), and is in the process of lining up a second placement program where Samara will have her own furnished apartment and continued case management upon successful completion of her halfway house program.

## CLIENT SUCCESS

We are proud to confirm that Samara has 20 days of sobriety to date and is excelling in her treatment program. Samara and her counselor have continued to maintain contact with Rochelle, and even invited her to a special ceremony as a support person.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The total amount of time our CHW spent on this case was 5 hours. Partnering organizations included Link and Keystone.

In addition to being the largest emergency shelter in the Sioux Falls Area, the Union Gospel Mission also provides a resident addiction recovery program and provides an average of 900 food boxes to the community poor each week.

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