



PORTLAND STREET MEDICINE

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What is Street Medicine?

- Basic healthcare to unsheltered neighbors
- The emphasis is on the “rough sleeper”
- Origins: India, Latin America, Pittsburgh
- Models are on a spectrum
- Meeting people on their own terms

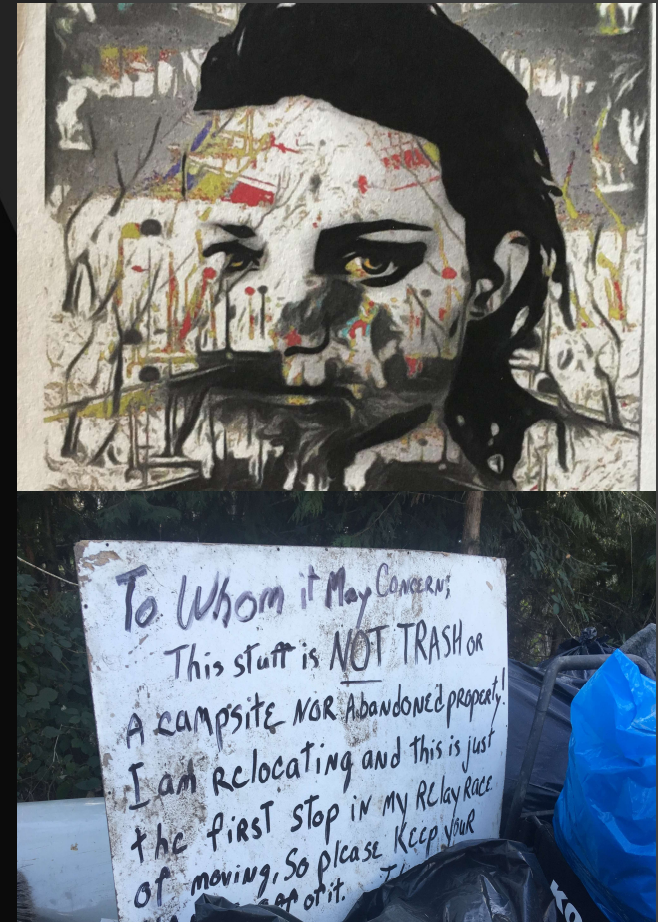


Our Examining Room



WHY STREET MEDICINE?

- 4,177 people experiencing homelessness in Portland (2017 Point-In-Time count)
- High burden of chronic illness
- Life expectancy 40-50 years old
- High financial burden to healthcare systems
- Survival: eating and shelter take priority over healthcare





The International Street Medicine Movement

Lessons Learned

1. People are the experts in their own lives
2. People are the owners of their decisions
3. Change will only occur through self-empowerment
4. Harm reduction
5. Success is defined 1 person at a time
6. Tragedy will be witnessed



Homelessness vs houselessness?

Our Practice

- Basic first aid
- Management of:
 - Common conditions
 - Chronic conditions (temporary)
- Decipher medical confusion
- Case management
- Collaboration
- We show up





What does Street
Medicine look like in
Portland?

- M-W-F
- All volunteer
- Route determined by community cries for help, rechecks and hubs
- Providers vetted
- 1-2 shift/month requirement

The Team

- The patient is captain
- MD-RN-LCSW-community member
- Every team member has a voice
- It's okay to question and it's okay to disagree
- Ongoing education, supervision and debriefs



How are we doing?

- For 2018, we served over 500.
- We're anticipating 1600 encounters in 2019
- We provided over 110 Flu shots on the streets and in the shelters



Additional communities

Service and outreach workers

Safety net clinics

Hospital systems

Medical providers

Academia

General public

Social justice



Success stories

- Our first procedure: “Boss”
- Ruptured appendicitis
- Dying indoors
- One signature away from housing: treating the public
- Not going blind
- Establishing street creds
- Gratitude from within a tent





A New Medical Practice: The Ethics of Street Medicine

- What constitutes a “patient”?
- Consent
- Privacy
- Public health on the streets
- End of life care
- Sharing our findings
- Working without a boss: self-regulation
- Funding and sustainability



Three Principles of Non-profit Work



#1: Creativity is
the remedy for
road blocks

#2: Without data,
it's just an
opinion



Quantifying a Qualitative Experience



#3: Charity and Social Justice Exist on a Spectrum





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*Yesterday
is gone.*

*Tomorrow has
not yet come.*

*We have
only today.*

Let us begin.

— Mother Teresa

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Just do the work!



That's All Folks

- Questions? / Reactions? / Reflections?
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