

Homeless Mobile Intake Team Receives Award



From left: Aging, Disability, and Veterans Services Division Senior Manager Joe Valtierra and Homeless Mobile Intake Team members: Catalina Cloud, Jody Michaelson (Senior Manager) and Byron Vaughn alongside staff members at St. Johns Village. (Photo courtesy of Motoya Nakamura/Multnomah County)

Highest Honor Presented by USAgging

Multnomah County has announced that the Aging, Disability and Veterans Services Division's Homeless Mobile Intake Team (HMIT) received a 2024 Aging Innovations Award from USAgging, one of the highest honors presented by USAgging to its members.

The Homeless Mobile Intake Team, was created to meet unhoused people where they live and assess them for Title XIX long-term care services and supports and other qualifying critical supports such as rent assistance and special needs funding. The team works with people to understand their living and care needs and build a person-centered plan of their choice. The program provides access to services for the most vulnerable, including disproportionately affected Black, Indigenous and people of color populations. It was among 16 local aging programs to receive Innovations honors during USAgging's 49th Annual Conference and Tradeshow. An additional 22 agencies received Achievement Awards.

The 2024 USAgging Aging Innovations & Achievement Awards, supported by Caregiving.com and Cumulus.care, recognizes USAgging's Area Agency on Aging members that have

found new and innovative ways to support older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers as they live in their homes and communities. Area Agencies on Aging provide a range of services to help older adults live safe, healthy and independent lives. Multnomah County's Department of County Human Services Aging, Disability and Veterans Services Division is an Area Agency on Agency.

"At USAgging, we are thrilled to recognize the outstanding achievements of this year's Aging Innovations & Achievement Awards recipients. Their innovative programs and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of older adults set a high standard for excellence in our field. These initiatives not only enhance the well-being of our aging population but also inspire others to strive for impactful and lasting change in their communities," said USAgging CEO Sandy Markwood.

"It's always a great feeling whenever we get at least a thank you. It's like, yes, it's a win," said Irma Jimenez, Aging, Disability & Veteran Services (AD-VSD) Division Director. "I'm really happy to show the continued work that Oregon is doing, to really meet the needs of our most vulnerable individuals. And I'm really proud of my team."

Created by the Multnomah County Aging, Disability & Veterans Services Division, the Homeless Mobile Intake Team mobile relies on a diverse

group of caseworkers and other staff — some who speak multiple languages and some who have lived experience. The team is the result of a partnership between the Joint Office of Homeless Services and the Department of County Human Services and is funded by the Metro Supportive Housing Services Measure.

They build relationships with people, conducting assessments, identifying benefits such as food and medical support, and also providing short-term intensive housing case management. To facilitate outreach, the team has a scheduled rotation to different shelters across the county, the Multnomah County Behavioral Health Center and has a presence at cooling and warming centers when activated. Referrals are also sent from community partners.

The 2024 USAgging Aging Innovations & Achievement Awards honored traditional and new strategies in a range of categories, including advocacy; agency operations; caregiving; community planning and livable communities; diversity, equity and inclusion; economic security; elder abuse prevention; health-social care integration; healthy aging; home and community-based services; housing and homelessness; kinship and grandfamily support; nutrition; technology; social engagement; transportation and mobility; and workforce development and volunteerism.



Adena Long

Director Long Joins City Parks Alliance Board

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parcs. The organization supports the role of parks in making cities more sustainable, equitable, and vibrant. Based in Washington, DC, the Alliance works with organizations involved in the design, development, operation, programming, funding, and stewardship of parks across the US and globally. The Alliance's Board of Directors includes leaders from these sectors.

Adena Long serves as the Director of Portland Parks & Recreation, where she leads one of the nation's most comprehensive and diverse park systems. Appointed in February 2019, she oversees 154 developed parks, 8,000 acres of natural areas, four million trees, 160 miles of trails, 12 community and art centers, 11 indoor and outdoor pools, six golf courses, 60 community gardens, a motor raceway, the world's smallest park, and much more. Under her lead-

ership, the bureau employs nearly 3,000 staff in peak season and operates with an annual budget of \$550 million.

Director Long has been instrumental in advancing recreation, environmental stewardship, youth workforce development, and community engagement. Her tenure is marked by a commitment to inclusivity, equity, and accessibility, exemplified by the successful passage and implementation of the Parks Local Option Levy in 2020, which secured essential funding and is moving Portland Parks & Recreation toward a sustainable future.

Her career in public service began in New York City in 1997 as a seasonal Urban Park Ranger. She quickly rose through the ranks to become the first woman of color and youngest individual to serve as Parks Borough Commissioner, later holding roles as Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner for Urban Park Service and Public Programs.



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