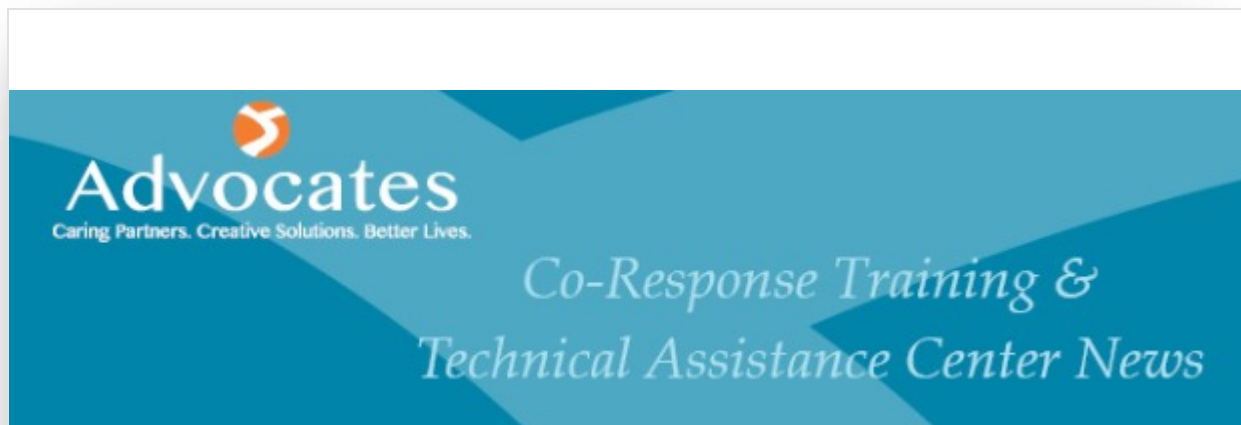


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April — **Advocates CR-TTAC News** — 2023

Feature Story:

Meet Our Team — monthly introductions to our amazing staff:

Good day, community members!

Continuing with our monthly staff introductions, highlighting our **Advocates JDP** team members, we want to introduce you to **Co-Response Clinician** Kristin Normandin. Currently, Kristin serves as the Co-Response Clinician for the **Stow and Harvard** Police Departments.

Meet Kristin Normandin, MSW, LCSW:

What brought you to this role?

I was an undergraduate student at Fitchburg State College in 2003 when the first co-response program began in Framingham. I remember being immediately interested in the collaboration between Police and social workers. My early career took me all over the world of social services, but when I went back for my Graduate studies, I had never shaken the desire to work in a Jail Diversion role. Through Boston University I completed one of my internships

with the Somerville Police Department and their COHR Unit. I knew after that experience that I wanted to continue working alongside Law Enforcement to respond to the mental health, substance use, and socio-economic concerns they identify on their calls every day.

What is challenging about your job?

The most challenging thing about my job is accepting that I won't always have immediate answers for the people I meet who are often in crisis and desperate for relief from their feelings and circumstances. The desire to give that relief to them is very real, and it's difficult to walk away sometimes knowing I wasn't able to change much in this one interaction. The JDP program's emphasis on collaborating with community resources and consultation with my co-workers (both Officers and Clinicians) helps me to cope with this challenging aspect of the work.

Why do you stay?

I feel so fulfilled by my role with the JDP because I love showing up for people when they most need support. I know that each person I interact with is somewhere amid a deeply personal experience and my goal when I'm with them is to increase, even in the smallest measure, their belief that they can cope with whatever they are facing right then and there. But really, what I love the most about my job is being part of the long-term, systems-level change. It may sound unusual, but nothing is as rewarding to me as the long, gritty, and sometimes uncomfortable process of changing the way we look at and do things. I love the feeling that comes with gaining new perspectives and going into things that I know will change me. We have such a long way to go to address the deficits and to replicate the successes in our mental healthcare system. It feels good to go to work with people who are committed to showing up for this particularly challenging process which has us thinking way outside of the box! I have always loved being a Social Worker, and I feel very proud to be here working with this Clinical team and these Police Departments willing to do things differently so that we can learn to do things better.

Join Our Team



Independent, Motivated, & Enthusiastic Professionals Wanted

Advocates promotes a healthy work-life balance and offers many generous perks of employment and room for advancement. We are a strong-knit community that values the ideas and contributions of our staff.

Our Co-Response Jail Diversion Team is expanding rapidly and we want you to join us!

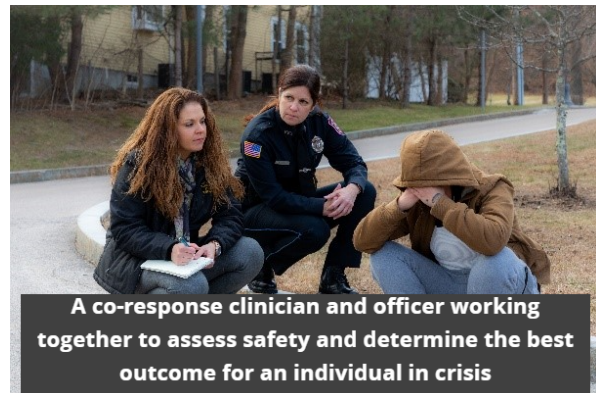
The Jail Diversion Social Worker works in conjunction with the designated police department (s) to provide psychiatric and substance use evaluations to individuals who encounter the police while in crisis.

Do you...

- **Have a Master' Degree in counseling or a related field?**
- **Have a minimum of 2 years of experience in crisis intervention?**
- **Like a fast-paced work environment?**

If so, please email Vice President of Community Justice Services **Steve Corrigan**, LMHC at:

SCorrigan@Advocates.org



Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) for Public Safety Trainings

MHFA is an 8-hour evidence-based curriculum as specified in the IACP One Mind campaign.

****Please note**
Certification
requires active
class
participation!**

We are offering our co-taught (police officer & clinician) **FREE 8-hour MHFA for Public Safety** trainings for law enforcement.

Classes are valued by the National Council for Behavioral Health at \$170 per participant; thanks to Department of Mental Health funding, we are offering this class **free** of charge.

New classes are starting soon!

To register for a future class, click the "class registration" button below.

[Class Registration](#)

Upcoming Course Dates:

For more information about trainings in your area, as well as the complete schedule of this month's training events, click the "learn more" button below.

[Learn More](#)