

August TTAC Newsletter

CR-TTAC Newsletter

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Note from the Director

Welcome to August's newsletter. This past month has been a whirlwind of activity, some of which is detailed below, but much of which goes on quietly, behind the scenes.

We have settled into our new space in Boxboro and are starting to field requests for co-response conference and workshop presentations for the fall. We love these opportunities to network and collaborate with colleagues in the field. We will post updates on our speaking engagements and activities on our webpage.

Lastly, due to exciting program expansion, we have two full time responder openings detailed below. Please forward to any qualified candidates!

Enjoy the remaining days of summer.

Sincerely,

Sarah Abbott Ph.D.
Jail Diversion Program Director

Spotlight on our "Borough's" Program



Our co-responding clinician (pictured above with Chief Lourie), Christina Fitton LCSW, has started off strong in Advocates' newest regional Jail Diversion Program: "The Boroughs" – Westborough, Southborough and Northborough. Christina is a master's level Clinical Social Worker whose background in criminal justice, drug and alcohol counseling, child welfare, and emergency psychiatric services is helpful to the variety of situations co-responding clinicians encounter alongside the police.

In addition to being introduced by Chief Lourie of the Westborough Police Department to the town's Board of Selectmen, Christina was also a

guest at the monthly “Breakfast with the Chief” event. Chief Lourie and Christina spoke very well to what co-response jail diversion is all about.

[Check out the "Breakfast with the Chief" video here!](#)

Westborough Sergeant, Jon Kalagher says their co-response program helps the police department expand use of community resources and lets officers spend more time responding to public safety issues. Christina agrees. “I have witnessed how deeply they care about and value people, but they don’t have time to connect people to the resources they need. Their job is different and no one else can do what they need to do,” she says. “After the first few weeks of starting in these three departments, the officers really began to see how adding a clinician is helpful on 911 calls for service.”

The co-response clinician can make an immediate assessment about what level of care people need. Christina observes, “The police are not trained for this and might end up sending someone to the hospital when they do not need to go. Assessment on-scene helps make sure individuals are not arrested when what they really need is support. Being present on emergency calls with officers create a stronger bridge between officers and people in crisis; so that they can have more chance of a good experience together.”

Christina recounts instances of being able to support people in many different kinds of crisis situations and how rewarding the work is for her. “I sit with crime victims or families who have experienced a loss. This frees officers to go to the next emergency and it provides support for people on what may be the worst day of their lives. I feel honored to accompany the police and support people in these moments.”

Chief Lourie values the co-response program just as much. He recently remarked, "I, along with my entire team, look forward to working with Christina and Advocates for years to come."

Public Engagements

CR-TTAC Consultation to BJA Learning Site

Dr. Sarah Abbott and Katelyn Dehey LMHC, of the Advocates Jail Diversion Program were honored to once again be invited to present our work alongside the Arlington Police JDP team last month. The Arlington Police Department is a Bureau of Justice Learning Site. Representatives from Gallatin, Tennessee, came to Arlington, MA to learn about best practices in law enforcement co-response and mental health collaborations.

The town of Gallatin was represented by members of the Gallatin Police Department and mental health provider agency, Volunteer Behavioral Health, who were able to access the expertise we have developed over the last 16 years here at the Advocates Co-Response Jail Diversion Program. It was a great day of collaborating, sharing information, and learning for everyone involved.



Arlington is one of 10 cities nationwide that serves as a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) learning site. BJA grants seek to strengthen the nation's criminal justice system by providing state, local, and tribal governments with the cutting-edge tools and best practices they need to reduce violent and drug-related crime, support law enforcement, and combat victimization.

The learning sites give communities all over the country an opportunity to access training and technical assistance as well as policy development services. The Arlington Police Department is one of ten nationwide learning sites and was chosen because of the success of the Arlington Jail Diversion Program and Arlington Opiate Outreach Initiative (AOOI).

[Click here for more information on the Arlington Learning Site!](#)

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) for Public Safety Trainings

We are currently accepting registrations for the following
MHFA trainings in 2019

- September 11
- October 2
- November 13
- December 11

These trainings will be hosted by the Hudson, MA Police Department.

The training is free to Massachusetts police officers thanks to Department of Mental Health funding.

[Register for any training date here!](#)

[Request more general information about MHFA here](#)



We have current openings on our Framingham and Marlborough Co-Response programs!

Come join our team.

Both positions are on our busiest evening shifts and require a relevant master's degree and prior crisis intervention experience.

Please visit our careers web page to apply:

<https://careers-advocatesinc.icims.com/jobs/search?ss=1&searchKeyword=jail+diversion>

Jail Diversion Statistics to Date

Data from the co-response Jail Diversion programs reveals that since 2003 we have achieved the following outcomes:

23,180 Total JDP Interventions
\$17,436,500 Estimated Cost Savings

3,093 Arrest Diversions
\$7,732,500
Estimated Cost Savings

2,426 ER Diversions
\$9,704,000
Estimated Cost Savings



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