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August — **Advocates CR-TTAC News** — 2022

Feature Story:

Meet Our Team — monthly introductions to our amazing staff:

Join Our Team

Continuing with our monthly staff introductions, highlighting our **Advocates JDP** team members, we want to introduce you to Courtney Motuzas, LICSW. Courtney serves as the co-response jail diversion clinician for the Lowell Jail Diversion Program.

Meet Courtney Motuzas:

What brought you to your role at Advocates?

I have always been drawn to the intersection of the criminal justice and mental health systems. In my previous role as a clinician at a prison, I learned that the rate of mental illness and trauma among incarcerated individuals is much higher than the general public. Some of those I met during their incarceration may be in a very different place today if they were offered services at the time of their first encounter with police. The Jail Diversion Program aims to provide support and services to individuals who become involved with the police and divert them into appropriate treatment before they end up involved in the legal system.

What is challenging about your job?

One of the most challenging parts of the job is trying to help people who aren't ready to make a change or accept support. We run into some of the same people month after month in the community, and we meet them where they're

at on that day and hope that this time they want some help. It can be discouraging at times but also challenges me to try new approaches and continue to develop my skills as a clinician.

What encourages you to stay in your position?

This work is extremely important and relevant in today's world, especially given the significant overlap in the mental health and criminal justice systems. I quickly learned in this position that jail diversion is only one of many things that we do as co-response clinicians. In addition to diverting individuals from being arrested, we also provide support at a variety of other calls where someone may benefit from speaking with a clinician or being offered additional services. I enjoy working in this fast-paced environment where no two situations are the same. I also feel appreciated and valued within the JDP team, the police department, and in the community. I am excited that I get to be part of this compelling program.



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 Assistant Program Director Jenelle Main, LMHC at

JMain@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:

please see our training events page on the Advocates Co-Response Jail Diversion Program Trainings page.

Upcoming Course Dates:

For more information about trainings in your area and a complete schedule of monthly training events, click the "learn more" button.

[Learn More](#)