



## Co-Response Training & Technical Assistance Center News

March — **Advocates CR-TTAC News** — 2021

### Feature Story:

## A Parting Tribute to Sarah Abbott, PhD —

Here at [Advocates Co-Response Training and Technical Assistance Center \(CR-TTAC\)](#), it is a bittersweet time. After a rather remarkable tenure at [Advocates, Co-Response Jail Diversion Program Director](#), Dr. Sarah Abbott, has moved on to pursue other professional opportunities. We are excited for Dr. Abbott and anticipate great things as she moves forward in her professional life.

Doubtless, we will miss her, even as the entire [Advocates Jail Diversion](#) team carries the gifts of her leadership, innovative spirit, and passionate tutelage into the communities we serve. Jail Diversion Program Manager, Katelyn Dehey, spoke to the heart of Dr. Abbott's leadership, noting "Sarah always put the wellbeing of her team first because she knows better than anyone what it truly takes to be a Co-Response Clinician. We are all amazingly lucky to have learned from her and will be forever grateful to her for paving the way for us in this important work."

To be sure, [Advocates CR-TTAC](#) is the powerful community resource it has become due to Dr. Abbott's vision, expertise, and guidance. In honor and appreciation of Dr. Abbott, we would like to highlight some of her significant achievements as she developed, accompanied, and guided the growth of the Co-Response program.

More than 20 years ago, Sarah Abbott, PhD, brought her expertise, drive, and vision to bear at [Advocates](#). Beginning with the launching of the Framingham Jail Diversion Program over 18 years ago, Dr. Abbott led the team through community-changing expansions of the Co-Response model. Our [Co-Response Jail Diversion](#) clinicians now assist a total of 15 law enforcement departments. In collaboration with these departments, clinicians have responded to over 24,000 calls for service and 911 calls. These co-response interventions have diverted unnecessary arrests and emergency department visits, saving the Commonwealth millions of dollars and valuable resources, while also saving lives. Most importantly, as Dr. Abbott noted in her parting letter, public safety officers now have "a known and trusted resource at their side on their most complex and dynamic calls." Dr. Abbott credits these successes, not to herself, but to the synergistic combination of talented and committed clinicians, law enforcement, and community stakeholders who make this work possible and support it.

During her time with [Advocates](#), Dr. Abbott received recognition for her leadership, advocacy, and community-building work. Beginning with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts individual **Service and Commitment Award** in 2003, Dr. Abbott has received multiple awards for innovative community service and contributions to community health and safety. She received the Framingham Police Department **Public Service Award** three times, in 2007, 2008, and 2009. The significance of Dr. Abbott's vision and work regarding behavioral/mental health impacts were recognized in 2004 with the Thomas M. Wernert Innovation in **Community Behavioral Care Leadership Award** and, in the following year, the Department of Mental Health **Distinguished Service Award**. This list of recognitions is too long to list in full here. In 2019, Dr. Abbott and the [Advocates Jail Diversion](#) program were featured in [Mother Jones](#) magazine.

These honors speak not only to Dr. Abbott's visionary leadership, but also to the team of gifted, dedicated clinicians she built within the [Advocates Jail Diversion](#) program. Taylor Hayden, our Hudson/Sudbury Jail Diversion clinician, affirms Dr. Abbott's legacy by saying, "Sarah's enthusiasm and passion for co-response is infectious and may be seen in the many program replications she has successfully initiated." Jenelle Main, Assistant Program Director of Jail Diversion, added that "learning and leading an amazing team alongside Sarah has been an incredible honor." Dr. Abbott was so much more than a supervisor, she was a wonderful mentor.

As Dr. Abbott moves to the next stage of her professional life, she leaves behind a growing legacy in the entire team at [Advocates](#). To be sure, the [Co-Response Jail Diversion](#) team concurs with Training & Research Coordinator, Adriana Davis-Tarantino, who shared that Dr. Abbott has created better, healthier communities through her "exceptional leadership, unparalleled knowledge, and immense presence." Through the Co-Response model, Adriana added, Dr. Abbott's vision "has touched countless lives. I think that our entire team would agree that we could not have asked for a better leader. She will be sorely missed by all of us." The entire team joins Katelyn Dehey in saying to Dr. Abbott: "We are excited to see what you do next and we will work hard to continue your Jail Diversion legacy."

## 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 Assistant Program Director **Jenelle Main**, LMHC at

[JMain@Advocates.org](mailto:JMain@Advocates.org)



A co-response clinician and officer working together to assess safety and determine the best outcome for an individual in crisis

## 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.

**Due to COVID-19, we are capping classes at 15 participants to comply with CDC guidelines for social distancing. Registration will be on a first come, first serve basis.**

### To register:

please contact **Katelyn Dehey**, LMHC, our Training and Technical Assistance Center Manager at [KDehey@Advocates.org](mailto:KDehey@Advocates.org).

**New classes are starting soon!**

## Upcoming Course Dates:



### Training Location:

Hopkinton PD

### Registration Open for:

**May 12, 2021**  
from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**June 2, 2021**  
from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

