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October —

Advocates CR-TTAC News

— 2022

Feature Story:

Meet Our Team — monthly introductions to our amazing staff:

Continuing with our monthly staff introductions, highlighting our **Advocates JDP** team members, we want to introduce you to Sam Dubois, MSW, LCSW. Sam serves as the jail diversion program co-response clinician for the Franklin/Medway region.

Meet Sam Dubois:

What brought you to your role at Advocates?

I first heard about clinician co-response in police departments a few years ago from family members who live in Oregon. I learned about the Cahoots program, which was started in Eugene, Oregon in 1989 and was the first co-response program in the country. It seemed like an awesome, much needed design for police/communities and I felt like I might be able to see myself doing that kind of job. During my Master's degree, Cahoots came up again... I came to this role because I deeply believed in the value of the program and felt like I possessed skills/training, intuition, and personality to positively impact the police department, relationships with individuals in the community with mental health issues and, by extension, the community as a whole. I also felt like this role would challenge me professionally and personally and felt I could grow as a professional and person within this role.

What is challenging about your job?

While there are several challenges in this position, I'd say the most challenging aspect of the job is the variability; variability in calls, relationships, and

communication, how calls are conducted, and how the clinician role is or is not utilized. In general, I feel these challenges are rooted in the fact that different officers have different communication styles, perspectives on policing, outlooks on mental health/addiction, etc. I view challenges like these as opportunities for myself and the position to grow, and I feel these challenges, at least for me, come with the territory of working as a clinician embedded in a police department.

What encourages you to stay in your position?

Being with individuals who are not at their best and being able to be a positive agent of change for them during these moments is extremely rewarding. Having the unique opportunity to be able to learn from police officers, broaden my perspective of law enforcement and the relationships between communities and police, and impart my knowledge to coworkers when possible is also very rewarding. I stay in this position because I believe deeply in the program, I feel as though I am part of something bigger than myself, and I am confident that my presence in this position, as well as facing the various challenges that come with it, are making me a better social worker and human being.

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!

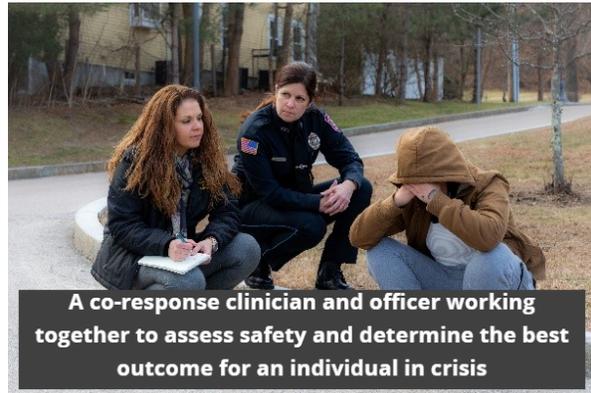
The Jail Diversion Social Worker works in conjunction with the designated police department (s) to provide psychiatric and substance use evaluations to individuals who encounter the police while in crisis.

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



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](#)