

# CR-TTAC January 2020 Newsletter

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## In this Issue

- Advocates Co-Response Team supports local non-profit that provides bullet resistant vests to police k-9's
- CR-TTAC Staff provide consultation to law enforcement representatives from Green Bay, WI
- Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety

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## Community Spotlight

### Massachusetts Vest-A-Dog

Massachusetts Vest-A-Dog is an entirely volunteer based non-profit 501(c)3 organization that provides bullet resistant vests to Massachusetts Police dogs. These vests are not only bullet resistant, but also protect against any blunt force trauma. The primary goal of this cause is to ensure every Massachusetts Police dog has a vest (vests can cost anywhere between \$1200-\$2500 each). Because of this organization, more than 546 vests have been provided to law enforcement agencies throughout the state since 2000. MA Vest-A-Dog is also helping to provide funding for

training, dogs for police, vest replacements, and other essential equipment.

The Advocates Co-response team recently supported this very important cause by purchasing twelve MA Vest-A-Dog winter hats for our clinicians as we believe in the importance of protecting the lives of these hard working K-9's and keeping our clinicians warm!



Pictured above from left to right: Shenna Mahoney, LICSW, Melissa Duarte, MSW, Katelyn Dehey, LMHC, Taylor Hayden, MA, Kallie Montagano, MA, & Danielle Larsen, LMHC

For more information on how you can help Massachusetts Vest-A-Dog please visit <https://mavestadog.org/vests/join-the-cause/>. Donations can be made in the form of purchasing merchandise, monetary donations, and fundraising.

If you would like to make a donation by check it can be made payable to MA Vest-A-Dog, Inc and mailed to:

MA Vest-A-Dog, Inc.  
PO Box 48  
Walpole, MA 02081

## National Consultation

### CR-TTAC Consulting at Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA) Learning Site

Dr. Sarah Abbott, the Director of Jail Diversion Programs at Advocates and our CR-TTAC Manager Katelyn Dehey, LMHC were invited to the Arlington Police BJA Learning Site to present on the Advocates Co-Response Jail Diversion Model to representatives from Green Bay, WI.



Pictured above from left to right: Katelyn Dehey, LMHC, Dr. Sarah Abbott, Captain Richard Flynn, Rebecca Wolfe, M.Ed., Officer Barb Geraden, Officer Erin Bloch, & Heather Burzynski, MSW

Dr. Abbott and Katelyn had the pleasure of meeting with representatives

from the Mental Health Team for the Green Bay PD. In November 2015, Green Bay piloted a program in which they assigned two officers to specifically respond to the 20,000-32,000 calls for service involving mental illness they were receiving. Officer Barb Geraden was one of the first officers assigned to this role which took her away from her typical duties as a patrol officer. The pilot program allowed officer Geraden and her partner who were both CIT trained to be the "bridge between the people who are struggling and local treatment services." The pilot program proved to be so successful that they made it a permanent program in their department. In 2018, the department fought to have money added to the county's budget to add a social worker to the team and in 2019, they were able to bring Heather Burzynski, MSW on board. Heather works alongside Officer Geraden and Officer Bloch to de-escalate situations and refer individuals in mental health crisis to appropriate treatment providers. Some specific topics discussed at our meeting with the team included clinician training, data collection and analysis, best practices regarding embedding of the clinician, and commonly encountered situations. As always it was our honor and privilege to be able to sit with members of the Green Bay Police team to share best practices and information.

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## **Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) for Public Safety Trainings**

The CR-TTAC recently received a letter from Chief Craig Davis of the Regis College Campus Police Department about our MHFA training. Chief Davis reported they had an incident in which one of his officers received accolades for building a strong rapport with a student in crisis. When the Officer was asked how he was successful in doing so, the Officer responded that he had recently attended MHFA through the CR-TTAC and that he was able to use the skills and techniques he learned in class to assist him on this particular call. It was rewarding for our trainers to hear

about the impact of their work and its implication in the field.

[Read Full Letter from Chief Davis](#)

We currently have openings in the following upcoming Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) for Public Safety training's:

- March 24, 2020
- April 22, 2020
- May 13, 2020

Classes will be held at the Holliston Police Department from 8:00am-4:00pm.

[Register Here](#)

*To learn more about the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) trainings, please visit: [www.jaildiversion.org](http://www.jaildiversion.org) or email Katelyn Dehey at [kdehey@advocates.org](mailto:kdehey@advocates.org).*

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Advocates Co-Response Team is hiring! Please see below for current job listings:

[Framingham Co-Response Social Worker](#)

[Marlborough Co-Response Social Worker](#)

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