

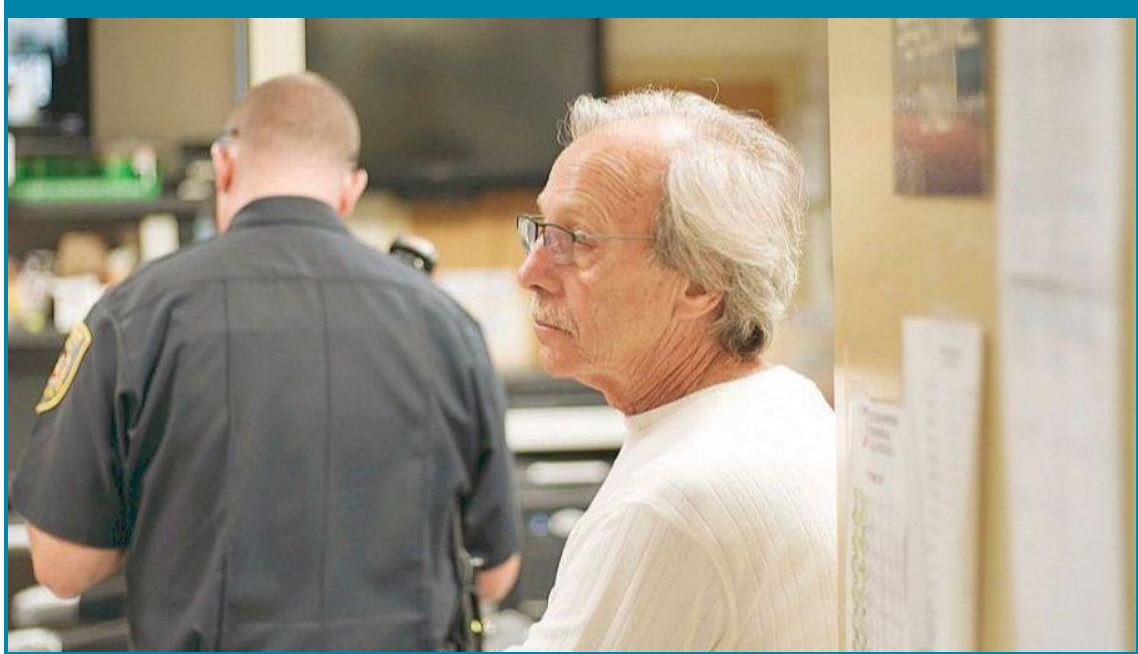
Co-Response in The News!

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"The partnership between Pittsfield Police and the Brien Center has helped 1,636 people to date, Richard Collins said. He estimates that represents about \$3 million in diverted hospital bills for those would-be emergency department visits, which, he said, usually are paid for under state-provided health insurance. That is assuming that each emergency department visit costs about \$2,500, and he said that is a conservative estimate. The estimated \$3 million in savings assumes every person for whom a Section 12 order was not issued would otherwise have gone to a hospital if the program were not in place. Ambulance transport costs were not included."

-Amanda Drane, The Berkshire Eagle



Congratulations to Richard Collins (pictured above and below) and the Brien Center for being featured in The Berkshire Eagle on 7/20/19!

In an article titled "Streetwise Clinician Helps Bring More Humane Approach to Police Calls in Berkshires," reporter Amanda Drane highlights various types of situations Richard has been able to assist police with by co-responding to calls for service. The Co-Response Jail Diversion model puts clinicians on the scene of 911 calls with police officers; this allows not only for individuals in mental health crisis to be diverted from arrest and into treatment if appropriate, but it also allows the opportunity for diverting individuals from unnecessary emergency room visits.

Our own Dr. Sarah Abbott who pioneered this model was interviewed in the article. "Arresting someone or bringing them to a hospital are any officer's 'default position.' It provides an immediate solution, but it's also expensive and involves taking someone with a mental health issue against their will," she explained. Thanks to the work of Collins and the Brien Center, officers in the Berkshire community now have another option.

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