

September TTAC Newsletter

CR-TTAC Newsletter

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Note from the Director

This month we feel that it is important to highlight Suicide Prevention Month in our newsletter. As social workers, teachers, police officers, friends, parents and community members, we encounter people in crisis who may be feeling suicidal. We hope that by including some of the national and local resources, we can share the good work that is happening in suicide prevention.

Sincerely,

Sarah Abbott Ph.D.
Jail Diversion Program Director

National Suicide Prevention Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Month and according to the Centers for Disease Control, "From 1999 through 2017, suicide rates increased for both males and females, with greater annual percentage increases occurring after 2006." During those years, suicide increased

33%. As one of the leading causes of death in the U.S., suicide touches the lives of millions of Americans every day and it is not just an American issue: according to the World Health Organization, one person dies by suicide every 40 seconds worldwide.



National Suicide Prevention Hotline

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funds the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (**800-273-8255**) which is staffed 24/7 for people call and access free and confidential support when they are in crisis.

Co-Response and Suicide Prevention

Our co-response clinicians accompany police on 911 emergency calls. No two situations are the same, and co-responders encounter opportunities for suicide prevention as well as for supporting people in the aftermath of completed suicide.

JDP clinicians are able to refer individuals who are struggling with suicidal ideation to community based services. Additionally, clinicians can connect those who lose a loved one to suicide to resources and supports including the LOSS Team (Local Outreach to Survivors of Suicide). This group of local volunteers have all experienced losing a loved one to suicide and want to help others through their own lived

experience.

The presence of JDP clinicians not only helps keep people out of the mental health and criminal justice systems when appropriate, but also helps to mobilize support and resources in emergencies that law enforcement cannot manage alone.

Upcoming Events

Jail Diversion Program Director Dr. Sarah Abbott will be speaking along with Opal Stone, Director of Advocates Reentry Services at the Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee (MHLAC) conference "Taking the 'Criminal' out of 'Criminal Justice'" on November 14, 2019. For more information or to register please see below.

MHLAC Conference

Our Training and Technical Assistance Center is hosting an information session for police departments interested in learning more about co-response. The event will be at the Sudbury Police Department on 10/17/19 at 1:00pm. See below for additional information and the RSVP!

Co-Response Information Session

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) for Public Safety Trainings

We are holding the following monthly MHFA for law enforcement officers and dispatchers:

- October 2, 2019
- November 13, 2019
- December 11, 2019

These trainings will be hosted by the Hudson, MA, Police Department.

The training is free to Massachusetts police officers and is supported by Department of Mental Health funding.

Feedback from past participants on the trainers and the course:

“The trainer is an extremely personable and knowledgeable police officer who shared several personal real-life examples to communicate parts of the course and destigmatize mental health treatment for first responders. Thank you.”

“The clinician did a great job bringing a lot of experience and passion to the course. She made me see several overlaps between the law enforcement world and mental health field that I previously had overlooked.”

“I attended this course because I heard other officers at my station say they enjoyed it and greatly benefited from it, so I wanted to check out the course.”

To learn more about the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) trainings, please visit: www.jaildiversion.org or email Karen Kieffer at KKieffer@Advocates.org.

[Request More Information](#)

[Register for any training date HERE](#)

Come Join Our Team!

We have current openings on our Framingham and Marlborough Co-Response programs!

Both positions are on our busiest evening shifts and require a relevant master's degree and prior crisis intervention experience.

Please visit our careers web page to apply here:

[JDP Careers](#)



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