

Mental Health Field Response Teams



WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF

**SHERIFFS &
POLICE CHIEFS**

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04/29/20

What is WASPC?

- ▶ **WASPC** is an acronym for the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs. The association was founded in 1963 and consists of executive and top management personnel from law enforcement agencies statewide.
- ▶ Our membership includes sheriffs, police chiefs, the Washington State Patrol, the Washington Department of Corrections, and representatives of a number of federal agencies. WASPC is governed by its executive board.
- ▶ WASPC is the only association of its kind in the nation combining representatives from local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement into a single body, working toward a common goal.
- ▶ WASPC's function is to provide specific materials and services to all law enforcement agencies in the state, members and non-members alike. The 1975 legislature made WASPC a legal entity designating the association as "combination of units of local government." ([RCW 36.28A.010](#))
- ▶ The mission of the Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs is to lead collaboration among law enforcement executives to enhance public safety.

Mental Health Field Response Teams

- ▶ In 2018 WASPC was selected as the lead organization for the grant program to Establish and/or Expand mental health field response capabilities of law enforcement agencies.
- ▶ Primary Goals:
 - ▶ Treatment
 - ▶ Diversion
 - ▶ Reduced Incarceration

MHFRT Grant Award Criteria

- ▶ Applicants must be a law enforcement agency in WA State.
- ▶ Proposals must incorporate at least one mental health professional (MHP), as defined in RCW 71.05.020(35):
 - ▶ In the field or in an on-call capacity
 - ▶ Provide preventive, follow-up, training on mental health field response best practices, or other services at the direction of the agency
 - ▶ MHP is not limited to just field patrol
- ▶ Two or more agencies may submit a joint grant proposal.

MHFRT Grant Award Criteria

- ▶ Agencies with existing programs may also apply to expand their programs.
- ▶ Agencies are required to develop and provide (or arrange for) training for MHPs to operate successfully and competently within their agency.
- ▶ Coordinate with your local public safety answering points (911).
- ▶ Use a standard set of data reporting elements.

DATA COLLECTION

General Data Fields

- ▶ Basic Incident Information
- ▶ Basic Officer Information
- ▶ Nature of the Crisis
- ▶ Behaviors
- ▶ Demeanor Observed by LE
- ▶ Threats/Violence/Weapons
- ▶ Injuries during Incident
- ▶ Use of Force Techniques Used
- ▶ Disposition
- ▶ Narrative

Data Collection Challenges

- ▶ FY-2018 & FY2019
 - ▶ 2018 - RideAlong selected to create an app & interfaces
 - ▶ RideAlong enters into contract negotiations with OpenLattice
 - ▶ Mid-2019 OpenLattice acquires RideAlong
 - ▶ Frustrated Users resort to Excel
 - ▶ Very little data



GRANT AWARDS & APPROPRIATIONS

MHFRT Grant Award Appropriations

- ▶ 2018-2019 Legislative Appropriation - \$1M
- ▶ 2019-2020 Legislative Appropriation - \$2M (W/Restrictions)
- ▶ 2020-2021 Legislative Appropriation - \$2M (Pending)

Grant Award Agencies 2018-2019

Agency	Award Amount
Kirkland, Shoreline, Bothell, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore PD (Multi-Agency)	\$102,600
Kitsap Co. Sheriff	\$100,842
Olympia PD	\$102,613
Redmond PD	\$84,122
Renton & Auburn PD (Multi-Agency)	\$90,000
Port Angeles PD	\$136,500
Spokane Co. Sheriff	\$89,596
Wenatchee & East Wenatchee PD and Chelan & Douglas Co. Sheriff (Multi-Agency)	\$92,655

Kirkland PD (Multi-Agency)

- ▶ Kirkland Police Department (*Lead Agency*), Shoreline Police Department, Kenmore Police Department, Lake Forest Park Police Department and Bothell Police Department
- ▶ Requested funding for the expansion of their Response, Awareness, De-escalation, & Referral or “RADAR” Navigator Program.
- ▶ The goals of RADAR are to enhance community and first responder safety by reducing police use of physical force, strengthen community/police partnerships and increase the connection of persons at risk with effective behavioral health treatment and services.

Kirkland PD (Multi-Agency)

- ▶ Total Contacts - 226
- ▶ Average Age - 40
- ▶ Number of Homeless - 47
- ▶ Number of Veterans - 4
- ▶ Number of Males - 98
- ▶ Number of Females - 128
- ▶ Number of Suicidal - 44
- ▶ Interactions w/CIT Officer - 162
- ▶ Interactions w/MHP - 64

Kitsap County Sheriff's Office

- ▶ KCSO subcontracted with Kitsap Mental Health Services (KMHS) for a full time Designated Crisis Responder (DCR) that was sited at the KCSO office in Silverdale, a mid-point in the large geographic territory covered by the sheriff.
- ▶ The DCR was available for calls directly to their cell phone, calls funneled by 911 or from law enforcement directly. The DCR assisted patrol officers by providing guidance during calls for suicide, mental health or behavioral health issues. The DCR was able to provide assessments including secure inpatient placement if an individual met the threshold for evaluation and treatment services. For persons not requiring detainment to a psychiatric facility or hospital, and able to be diverted from jail, the DCR provided linkages to the appropriate diversion alternative.

Kitsap County Sheriff's Office

- ▶ Total Contacts - 207
- ▶ Number of Follow Up - 384
- ▶ Number of Involuntary Treatment Act - 23

Olympia PD

- ▶ OPD and Catholic Community Services (CCS) of Olympia collaborated to create the Familiar Faces Program.
- ▶ OPD Walking Patrol officers contact Familiar Faces community members experiencing personal crisis, which often becomes a public crisis because of the severity of their behavioral health conditions.
- ▶ By engaging a smaller number of individuals with intensive, intentional, coordinated wrap around care, OPD and CCS have made noticeable impacts on the lives of Familiar Faces community members and have helped create a Downtown environment that is safe, healthy and vibrant for all who live, visit and work in Downtown Olympia.

Olympia PD

- ▶ Two Peer Navigators each carry a case-load of 10-15 participants at a time, cycling in new participants as others graduate out of the program.
- ▶ Peer Navigators share their lived experience with individuals to create supportive relationships based on trust and respect in an effort to increase empowerment and hope, improve personal success, provide opportunity for integration into the community, build linkages to needed community resources and begin to establish natural community supports.
- ▶ The Familiar Faces Program was awarded the Association of Cities Municipal Excellence Award and demonstrated success in the lives of Olympia's most vulnerable.

Redmond PD

- ▶ The RPD program leverages the City's partnership with IKRON of Greater Seattle and the local organizations within the Community Resource Center. This was achieved by ensuring the mental health professional (MHP) was an active member of the MHFRT by joining the team in the field in response to calls for service.
- ▶ The MHP provides the initial psychosocial needs assessment that helps determine the services needed. Depending on the degree of severity, the MHP was able to facilitate hospital admissions both voluntary and through custodial transfer or assist with transition back to the community.

Redmond PD

- ▶ Total Contacts - 263
- ▶ Diverted from Jail - 29
- ▶ Diverted from ER - 18
- ▶ Number Needing Emergent Services - 67
- ▶ Long Term Service Engagement - 18
- ▶ Needs Met Engagement - 25

Port Angeles PD

- ▶ PAPD partnered with the Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic (OPCC) and designed a coordinated response program called “ReDiscovery” to address the needs of persons with behavior health issues who often need short and long term services.
- ▶ By embedding a social worker with officers, PAPD no longer lost track of the person or lost the opportunity to get them into services.

Port Angeles PD

- ▶ 20 successful admissions to detox (18 individuals)
- ▶ 20 completed referrals to primary care physicians where the initial appointment was completed
- ▶ 5 Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) admissions, with 18 persons diverted to the crisis department
- ▶ 7 persons admitted into the Substance Use Disorder treatment (a level of care other than detox)
- ▶ 5 Substance Use Assessments were completed on persons in jail
- ▶ 15 persons were moved into permanent housing
- ▶ 21% of the individuals contacted did not get triaged because they either declined, were already involved with known services or they reported their needs were met

Spokane County Sheriff's Office

- ▶ SCSO partnered with Frontier Behavior Health to co-deploy a Deputy with a Mental Health Professional (MHP) with the intent of enhancing the services provided by law enforcement during calls for service that involve persons in crisis or with behavioral health issues.
- ▶ Knowing that the lack of housing is a de-stabilizing factor for some individuals with behavioral health concerns, Frontier Behavioral Health incorporated three different respite resources for the team to have access to 24/7.
- ▶ In addition to the co-deployed team's focus and success with diverting individuals from incarceration, the MHP has been able to reduce the amount of time law enforcement spends at hospital emergency rooms. In most instances, the MHP contacts the emergency department and provides requisite information while the deputy arranges for transport by ambulance. This eliminates transport by the co-deployed team who can immediately return to service.

Spokane County Sheriff's Office

- ▶ 250 individuals served
- ▶ 206 (82%) individuals were diverted from jail & ER
- ▶ 5 (2%) individuals were incarcerated
- ▶ 39 (15%) individuals were transported to an ER

Wenatchee (Multi-Agency)

- ▶ Wenatchee Police Department (*Lead Agency*), East Wenatchee Police Department, Chelan County Sheriff's Office and Douglas County Sheriff's Office.
- ▶ In 2015, WPD partnered with Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington to provide crisis response services to law enforcement. Catholic Charities remains the contract service provider for Crisis and Mental Health services for Chelan and Douglas Counties.
- ▶ The initial focus was on high volume contacts and diverting them by providing behavioral health services. The program grew from a single staff member from Catholic Charities responding to requests from officers with WPD to a small staff of Designated Crisis Responders (DCRs) with Designated Mental Health Professionals (DMHPs) responding to calls for service from WPD, the East Wenatchee Police Department, the Chelan County Sheriff's Office, and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

Wenatchee PD (Multi-Agency)

- ▶ DCR staff made 311 total direct contacts with patients that involved 295 hours of direct patient contact by all four law enforcement agencies.
- ▶ One of the most critical growth areas was the extension of the MHFRT to the far outlying areas of Chelan and Douglas Counties. The community of Mansfield in particular saw DCR responses for the first time ever.
- ▶ Extended coverage hours and staff made the travel to areas like Mansfield possible during normal operations. The utilization of scanners reduced call response times by crisis response staff to less than 10 minutes. DCR staff were frequently staged near the call before law enforcement even arrived.

FY2018-2019 Lessons Learned

- ▶ Difficulty hiring Mental Health Professionals
- ▶ Delay in creating the data collection tool
- ▶ RideAlong was acquired by OpenLattice

Grant Awards 2019-2020

- ▶ The 2019-2020 appropriations were restricted as follows:
 - ▶ \$1,500,000 per year (designated to only Trueblood, et. al. v. Department of Social and Health Services identified Phase One regions. Phase One Regions include the Spokane Region, Pierce County Region, and Southwest Washington Region)
 - ▶ \$500,000 per year for Mental Health Field Response Grants (no Trueblood restrictions)

Grant Award Agencies 2019-2020

Agency	Award Amount
Olympia PD	\$100,000
Kirkland, Shoreline, Bothell, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore PD (Joint)	\$80,000
Kitsap Co. Sheriff	\$88,217
Port Angeles PD	\$84,000
Wenatchee & East Wenatchee PD and Chelan & Douglas Co. Sheriff (Joint)	\$56,070
Redmond PD	\$84,122
Agency (Trueblood Restricted)	Award Amount
Pierce Co. Sheriff	\$350,733
Spokane Co. Sheriff & Spokane PD	\$698,750
Vancouver PD	\$314,917

Pierce County Sheriff's Department

- ▶ The PCSD co-responders are imbedded with the deputies working in the precincts and detachments throughout the county.
- ▶ The co-responders deployed in the field are able to assist law enforcement with call de-escalation and move the participant toward services rather than jail. The network established provides the linkage to services such as medical treatment, behavioral mental health services, job and housing placement assistance and other needs.

Pierce County Sheriff's Department

► Challenges:

- Inability to hire qualified co-responders has hampered their efforts, but they have been able to in the region.
- Prior to the pandemic, PCSD had an applicant moving through the background process with hopes of starting in May.

Spokane Co. Sheriff & Spokane PD

- ▶ SCSO & SPD had both operated very similar co-deployed teams to respond to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis and make every effort to intervene with high utilizers and provide follow-up after the initial crisis.
- ▶ Both agencies also contracted with Frontier Behavioral Health.
- ▶ Combining their co-deployed teams allowed for the expansion of services by creating a “boundaryless” concept where the teams are able respond to any location within Spokane County regardless of the location of the individual.

Spokane Co. Sheriff & Spokane PD

► Challenges:

- Inability to hire qualified co-responders has been challenging, but not hampered their efforts to respond throughout the Spokane County.
- Prior to the pandemic, Frontier Behavioral Health had two applicants moving through the background process with hopes of starting in May.

Vancouver PD

- ▶ VPD in partnership with Clark County Department of Community Services' Crisis Services Program and Sea Mar Community Services Northwest, offer a collaborative approach to enhance their existing Mental Health Field Response within the City of Vancouver.
- ▶ VPD's program is modeled after Pierce County's with a goal to provide community-based crisis intervention services in order to proactively divert individuals with behavioral health issues away from incarceration and keep them out of the criminal justice system.

Vancouver PD

- ▶ Challenges:
 - ▶ Difficulty filling limited term employees.
 - ▶ Key personnel left employment and needed to be replaced.
 - ▶ Interlocal agreements took longer to negotiate than anticipated.
 - ▶ COVID-19 Pandemic

Grant Awards 2020-2021

- ▶ 2020-2021 applications were scheduled for April 2020.
- ▶ Application process waived due to the pandemic.
- ▶ 2019-2020 grant award funds will be awarded to existing grantees in 2020-2021.

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Mental Health Field Response Teams

QUESTIONS?

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