OVERVIEW OF LAW ENFORCEMENT-MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

Law Enforcement-Mental Health Learning Sites

In an effort to expand the knowledge base for law enforcement agencies interested in developing or enhancing a comprehensive police-mental health collaboration (PMHC), The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, with assistance from a team of national experts and the U.S. Justice Department’s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), selected 10 law enforcement agencies to serve as national Law Enforcement—Mental Health (LE-MH) Learning Sites.

- Arlington (MA) Police Department
- Gallia, Jackson, Meigs Counties (OH) Sheriffs’ Offices
- Houston (TX) Police Department
- Los Angeles (CA) Police Department
- Madison (WI) Police Department
- Madison County (TN) Sheriff’s Office
- Portland (ME) Police Department
- Salt Lake City (UT) Police Department
- Tucson (AZ) Police Department
- University of Florida Police Department

In FY2019, the LE-MH Learning Sites responded to 604 requests for information, conducted 37 presentations/trainings, and held 40 site visits for more than 1,600 people.

Jurisdictions can engage, free of charge, with these Learning Sites to discuss strategies for improving the outcomes of encounters between law enforcement and people who have mental health needs. To assist you, they can provide various types of support on a range of topics, such as:

- **sharing** sample policies and procedures, training curricula, and data collection plans
- **discussing** strategic planning, collaboration, best practices, and lessons learned
- **recommending** additional policies, successful strategies, or program improvements
- **hosting** site visits for agencies to observe program operations first hand
- **visiting** requesting agencies to advise on program improvements
- **facilitating** mental health-related trainings and presentations

To access information regarding this free source, go to csgjusticecenter.org/law-enforcement/projects/mental-health-learning-sites/.

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<th>Learning Site</th>
<th>Program Highlights</th>
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<td>Arlington (MA) PD</td>
<td>Consists of a co-response program and targeted initiatives, spearheaded by a mental health clinician embedded in the police department, which includes a jail diversion program, Hoarding Response Team, Elder Abuse Prevention Task Force, and Arlington Opiate Outreach Initiative.</td>
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<td>Gallia, Jackson, Meigs Counties (OH) Sheriffs’ Offices</td>
<td>Composed of three sheriffs’ offices to provide a regional response in rural Appalachia, alongside a mental health provider. The collaborative offers pre-and post-release care to fill service gaps that exist in rural Appalachia; employs a mobile crisis team, telemedicine, and on-call support for crisis situations in five adult correctional facilities; and offers CIT training to all law enforcement personnel.</td>
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<td>Houston (TX) PD</td>
<td>Includes a multi-faceted strategy staffed by various personnel including CIT-trained patrol officers, co-responder units, a homeless outreach team, a Boarding Homes Enforcement Detail, a Chronic Consumer Stabilization Initiative, trained dispatchers, and trained jailers.</td>
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<td>Los Angeles (CA) PD</td>
<td>Uses a multi-layered approach that includes triage by trained dispatchers, co-response teams, follow-up case managers, and focused community engagement. Embeds mental health professionals in the law enforcement department, and incorporates comprehensive data collection and information-sharing procedures and a robust training strategy that includes 40-hour Mental Health Intervention Training.</td>
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<td>Madison County (TN) Sheriff’s Office</td>
<td>Operates an inter-agency collaborative, the Jackson-Madison County Law Enforcement-Mental Health Collaborative, which is essential to the planning, implementation, and provision of critical services for the community, including the development of a 24/7 crisis stabilization unit, a homeless unit, a training strategy that includes 40-hours of CIT, and mental health counselor positions embedded in the Madison County Jail.</td>
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<td>Madison (WI) PD</td>
<td>Uses a multi-layered approach with officers trained to be “mental health liaisons” and a full-time mental health team (sworn officers and in-house crisis workers). Collects data and shares non-protected information with line-level officers, and provides training for all officers using scenario-based approaches.</td>
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<td>Portland (ME) PD</td>
<td>Embeds mental health professionals in the law enforcement agency and uses a co-response model in partnership with a community-based support network. Provides CIT training for all officers.</td>
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<td>Salt Lake City (UT) PD</td>
<td>Employs a complementary three-team approach: CIT, Homeless Outreach Service Team (HOST), and Community Connections Center Team. The CIT multi-county collaboration provides: 40-hour training for patrol and corrections-based academies and a detective in the CIT Investigative Unit that follows up on mental health calls for service.</td>
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<td>Tucson (AZ) PD</td>
<td>Uses a multi-layered approach employing a co-responder program that pairs Mental Health Support Team (MHST) officers with mental health clinicians, crisis mobile teams that work in tandem with the crisis line, and a Crisis Response Center. Multi-tiered training is open to all levels of law enforcement, mental health workers, call takers and dispatchers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and firefighters.</td>
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<td>University of Florida PD</td>
<td>Coordinates with many campus entities involved with student and faculty wellness to provide training for university officers, with on-site support during incidents, as well as crisis intervention consultants. UFPD is also positioned to respond to youth in crisis from K-12 through university-age students due to a K-12 Developmental Research School on campus.</td>
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Available Funding

The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) promotes innovative cross-system collaboration and provides grants directly to states, local governments, and federally recognized Indian tribes. It is designed to improve responses to people with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders who are involved in the criminal justice system.

Tools

In 2016, BJA launched the Police-Mental Health Collaboration toolkit, an online resource intended to provide support to law enforcement agencies around the country for planning and implementing programs which appropriately respond to calls for service involving people who have mental illnesses. The PMHC Toolkit was developed in partnership with the CSG Justice Center and BJA’s subject experts to provide best practices and resources to help law enforcement agencies partner with behavioral health providers when responding to calls for service involving people who have mental health needs.
How to Reduce Repeat Encounters: A Brief for Law Enforcement Executives is a 2-page brief that provides four practical steps law enforcement executives can take to address and improve outcomes for people who their officers frequently encounter. These individuals, often referred to as “high utilizers,” typically have serious mental illnesses, substance use disorders, and other significant health and social service needs. By following these steps, law enforcement agencies can more effectively respond to these needs, including building services in partnership with providers, and reduce their contact with the criminal justice system over time.

**Technical Assistance**

Free technical assistance is available through the CSG Justice Center and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), with funding support from BJA. This national initiative offers guidance and resources to law enforcement, mental health agencies, and other partners interested in starting or enhancing their PMHC. To request technical assistance, visit csgjusticecenter.org/law-enforcement/contact.

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**About BJA**

BJA is a component of the Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs and helps to make American communities safer by strengthening the nation’s criminal justice system. It’s grants, training and technical assistance, and policy development services provide state, local, and tribal governments with the cutting-edge tools and best practices they need to reduce violent and drug-related crime, support law enforcement, and combat victimization. To learn more about BJA, visit bja.gov.