

JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATION PROGRAM



Project Context

National statistics show that individuals with mental illnesses are as much as six times more likely to become incarcerated than people without mental illness, with one in four jail inmates meeting criteria for serious psychological distress (Bronson & Berzofsky, 2017). In a recent study, research found that as much as 23.4% of the Gresham Police Department (GPD) patrol resources are spent on calls for service involving people with a mental illness (Henning, Steward, Wuschke, & Manson, 2019). GPD needs to be prepared to provide the best service possible in these situations, which involves increased efforts to divert individuals with mental illness away from the criminal justice system.



Project Goals

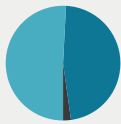
- ◆ Reduce the number of jail stays experienced by Gresham residents with severe mental illnesses
- ◆ Provide follow-up visits for Gresham residents with severe mental illness who had prior police contact

In 2017, Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare and the Gresham Police Department partnered to create the Gresham Service Coordination Team (GSCT). The goal of the GSCT is to provide an enhanced level of service and reduce the criminalization of individuals with mental illness. The GSCT accomplishes this goal by pairing mental health clinicians with police officers to co-respond to 911 calls that involve a mental health concern. Furthermore, the GSCT provides follow-up service coordination support to divert individuals with mental health concerns away from the criminal justice system and toward community organizations.



Who is being served?

Data below were documented during the first year of the GSCT program (June 2019 to March 2020.)

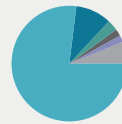


51% Male

47% Female
2% Nonbinary

Average Age: 40

Minimum: 8 years old
Maximum: 79 years old



77% White

10% Black
3% Latinx
2% Native
2% Asian
6% Unknown



70% Housed

15% Houseless
7% Unknown
8% Supportive Housing



Outcomes Summary

Data below were documented during the first year of the GSCT program (June 2019 to March 2020.)



1,890

911 calls for service with a mental health concern



346

911 calls with a GSCT clinician on scene



180

Clients who received follow-up coordination services



1,257

Hours spent coordinating services for clients

- ◆ The GSCT most frequently coordinated directly with clients, family members and mental health providers.
- ◆ The GSCT most frequently provided clients with information about mental health and housing services in the Gresham area.
- ◆ The GSCT also provided clients with food boxes, rides to appointments, phone access, and home goods.



When a mental health clinician was on scene, clients were the least likely to go to jail and the most likely to be diverted to community care resources.

The GSCT clinicians were more effective at keeping individuals from jail than officers trained in crisis intervention.