

The Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) News

As we forge on in these summer months, the BHU continues to evolve and adapt to the ever-changing landscape that we work in.

In July, the Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee (BHUAC) resumed its review of the standard operating procedures for the BHU, Portland Police Bureau directives that relate to the mental health system, and the future work plan of the BHUAC. In addition, the BHUAC welcomed two new members, one from the State Addictions and Mental Health Division and the other from the Metropolitan Public Defender's office, to participate in this very important committee.

Also included in this newsletter is a brief description of how the BHU's Service Coordination Team (SCT), along with other stakeholders, partnered to host a gathering to positively engage individuals, residents and businesses in an area of town heavily impacted by drug use and criminal activity.

The BHU hopes you are enjoying your summer and, as always, urges you to visit the BHU website

(<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/62135>) for more information.



BHU Stories from the Field

On Saturday July 5, 2014, at 12:45 a.m., Central Precinct officers responded to the 4900 block of Southwest Beaverton Hillsdale Highway on a report that a 48-year-old male was feeling suicidal and was planning to go to Forest Park to end his life.

Police arrived in the area and spotted the man carrying a large black duffel bag, walking to a waiting taxi.

Officers contacted the man and placed him in custody to check his welfare. When they looked inside the bag, officers located a shotgun and multiple rounds of ammunition. After talking to him and assessing his mental state, police took the man to a Portland hospital for a mental health evaluation and the gun was confiscated for safekeeping.

The Portland Police Bureau's Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) was notified for potential follow-up.

Help is available for community members struggling from a mental health crisis and/or suicidal thoughts.

The BHU wants you to know that suicide is preventable. There are resources available at:
<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/63941>

Furthermore, the Multnomah County Mental Health Call Center is available 24 hours a day at (503) 988-4888.

If you or someone you know needs help with suicidal thoughts or is otherwise in an immediate mental health crisis, please visit Cascadia or call (503) 963-2575. Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare has an urgent walk-in clinic, open from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., 7 days a week. Payment is not necessary.

Lines for Life is also available 24 hours a day at (503) 972-3456.

National Night Out!

On the afternoon of Thursday August 7th, alumni and staff of the Service Coordination Team, the Portland Office of Neighborhood Involvement, the Union Gospel Mission, the Portland Police Bureau's Behavioral Health Unit, and P:EAR hosted a cookout on NW Flanders between NW 5th and 6th Avenues in Old Town Portland. Organizers sought to positively engage the community on a block heavily impacted by drug use and criminal activity.

The event was a huge success. Over 500 hotdogs and hamburgers were served. Music was provided by SCT alumni and performers from New Avenues for Youth. Staff from the SCT & BHU (Portland Police Bureau), Central City Concern, Home Forward, Join, ONI (City of Portland), P:EAR, Union Gospel Mission, Volunteers of America, TPI, Multnomah County DCJ, and the Portland Rescue Mission were on hand to outreach to the hundreds of attendees.



Meet Cliff Bacigalupi



Cliff
Bacigalupi

BHU
Lieutenant

Lieutenant Cliff Bacigalupi has been with the Portland Police Bureau since 1996. In that time, Cliff has worked various patrol shifts, was part of Operation Pier Park, was a Senior Neighborhood Officer, worked as a TriMet officer; a Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) officer; and has been a Sergeant for Central Precinct and Central Precinct's NRT/Detectives.

Cliff was then named the Lieutenant of the newly-created BHU, with primary responsibility for the oversight and development of the day-to-day operations of the BHU. Cliff notes that the skills required in his position are, "The ability to establish and enhance relationships with non-traditional systems' partners."

Cliff also explains that, "The Unit's success is directly related to the people within the Unit. I try to set a positive tone and create an encouraging work environment within the BHU. In doing this, I hope people enjoy coming to work here and have the opportunity to be successful."

Cliff further states that the most rewarding aspect of his job is witnessing the on-going development of the BHU. He states that, "Everyone involved with the BHU, from the Enhanced Crisis Intervention Training (ECIT) officers, the Training Division, the Mobile Crisis Units (MCUs), the Service Coordination Team (SCT), and patrol officers, has had a positive impact on the creation and implementation of the BHU."

As far as goals for the BHU, Cliff states there are two main objectives to the Unit's success. He states, "On one hand, we are working towards the satisfaction of the requirements that have been proposed by the Department of Justice. On the other, the Unit is facilitating the coordination of the response of law enforcement and the behavioral health system to aid people in behavioral crisis, resulting from known or suspected mental illness or drug and alcohol addiction. I firmly believe that if we continue on our current path, we will become a national model for police response to people with mental illness or who are in crisis."