CIT COORDINATOR

The CIT Coordinator strengthens partnerships within the mental health community, advocacy groups, families and peers through community presentations and training. Community partners interested in discussing police behavioral crisis response training, resources, or information can contact the CIT Coordinator at (503) 823-0817.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee (BHUAC) is to provide guidance to assist the City of Portland and the Portland Police Bureau in the development and expansion of the Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (ECIT), Behavioral Health Response Teams (BHRTs), Service Coordination Team (SCT), Bureau of Emergency Communication crisis call response, and utilization of community mental health services.

The Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee membership is established by the Portland Police Bureau and includes representation from: Portland Police Bureau’s Behavioral Health Unit, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC), civilian leadership of the City Government, the Multnomah County Sheriff’s Office, Oregon Health Authority, mental health advocacy groups, mental health service providers, coordinated care organizations, and persons and families with lived experience with mental health services.
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT (BHU)

The BHU provides multiples levels of opportunities to resolve a behavioral crisis, connect a person to resources and reduce the frequency of police contact through the following programs.

CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING (CIT)

As primary responders to crisis calls, all Portland Police Officers receive 40 hours of crisis intervention training. This training is conducted upon hiring during the basic and advanced police academies. Crisis intervention training focuses on crisis response core competencies, local resources, and practical exercises. Additionally all officers receive crisis intervention updates during annual police in-service training.

ENHANCED CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (ECIT)

ECIT provides volunteer officers an additional 40 hours of training on the indicators of mental illness, crisis communication techniques, effective interactions with consumers and family members, as well as information on local community resources.

ECIT trains officers to respond to situations involving individuals in behavioral crisis. ECIT officers have three primary roles:

1. Identify risks during a behavioral crisis to help the primary officer or supervisor make an informed decision.

2. Be a crisis response resource. ECIT officers have familiarity with communication techniques that can help de-escalate a person in crisis.

3. Be a connector to resources through available community services or referral to the BHU for follow up.

An ECIT Officer is usually dispatched when a call has a mental health component and one of the following characteristics: the person is violent; the person is suicidal; the situation involves a weapon; the call is at a designated residential mental health facility; a request is made by the responding officer; or a request is made by a citizen.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESPONSE TEAMS (BHRT)

Each Behavioral Health Response Team consists of a police officer and a licensed mental health clinician contracted through Project Respond (Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare). BHRTs provide follow up to connect people to appropriate resources. PPB currently has a BHRT assigned to each precinct.

SERVICE COORDINATION TEAM (SCT)

The mission of the Service Coordination Team is to improve public safety, reinforce community livability and increase treatment outcomes for chronic offenders through the coordination of law enforcement, criminal justice, supportive housing and treatment resources. The SCT Program offers housing and treatment to chronic offenders in order to address their addiction and the root causes of criminality. Most importantly, the SCT offers real, attainable solutions that help people change their lives. Call (503) 823-0345 for more information.