

July 2016

Portland Police Bureau

The Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) News

The BHU is enjoying the summer months and the great weather, we hope you are also.

The BHU remains fully operational with three Behavioral Health Response Teams (BHRTs), one in each of the Bureau's Precincts, and the Service Coordination Team. The Bureau now has 99 Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (ECIT) officers with the completion of the 2015 training course.

2016 CIT Conference



BHU members Lieutenant Tashia Hager, Mr. Frank Silva, Officer Amy Bruner-Dehnert, and Dr. Liesbeth Gerritsen presented at the CIT 2016 International Conference April 25-27 in Chicago, Illinois. This conference provided an opportunity to learn current national best practices in crisis intervention programs.

The BHU conducted a workshop on "Expanding a Crisis Intervention Program into a Multi-Layered Response" highlighting Portland Police's crisis response model from initial response to connecting individuals to community services with follow up. The BHU team also discussed PPB's crisis training program, community outreach and partnerships as well as outcomes associated with our response model.

The workshop was well attended. It has led to collaboration with agencies locally and around the nation to further improve Portland Police Bureau's response to individuals in a behavioral health crisis.

For more information relating to the BHU, please go to (<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/bhu>).

Nathan Thomas Award Winner- ECIT Officer Jason Jones!

The Nathan Thomas Memorial award is given annually for an act of outstanding performance by which the nominee demonstrated exceptional communicative accomplishments which further the goals of community policing and/or show acts of selflessness, personal courage and devotion to community.

On June 2, 2016 the Nathan Thomas Memorial award was presented to ECIT Officer Jason Jones for his community engagement, compassion for people in mental health crisis and dedication to developing the Portland Police Bureau's crisis intervention program.

Officer Jones originally volunteered to become a CIT officer in 2001, was one of the first to volunteer for the ECIT program and has responded to numerous crisis calls during his career. Officer Jones is a member of the ECIT Advisory Council and has been an integral part in improving PPB's response to people in crisis. Officer Jones is the Parkrose community district officer.



SCT Graduation and Testimonial



Mayor Charlie Hales, Glen Lagrew (Alum) & Julian Penny (Alum) at the SCT Graduation Ceremony

On May 26, 2016, the Service Coordination Team (SCT) held a graduation ceremony at City Hall to honor 31 graduates from the program. The graduates all resided in the Central City Concern (CCC) Housing Rapid Response/NISA program while participating in CCC Recovery Center or other addiction treatment programs. David Rugh, SCT Alum, was Master of Ceremonies and was joined by Mayor Charlie Hales and Assistant Chief Robert Day. We commend the graduates for their hard work and commitment to recovery. We are very proud of the program, the graduates, alumni, staff, and our partners.

SCT Testimonial:

"I had the opportunity to emcee the SCT Graduation. During the graduation I was asked to tell my story and introduce Assistant Chief of Police Robert Day, as well as, Mayor Charlie Hales. During my talk, I spoke about this occasion being the first time I had ever worn a tie. After the graduation, Mayor Hales approached me and said, "I was very moved by your story, David, and want you to know this won't be the last time you wear a tie." Then he took off his tie right there and draped it over my shoulder! He put his hand out for a shake and I just hugged him. It was a very powerful and meaningful moment in my life. Days leading up to the graduation I felt somewhat embarrassed that this was the first time I wore a tie, but I also know that honesty and humility can go a long way with making a connection. I am very grateful where I am today and thankful for the team that helped guide me in a positive direction. Now I'm just trying to decide if I should frame the tie or wear it to the next graduation. I'm OK with these choices!"



*SCT Graduate
David Rugh*

Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team

On 4/1/16 Officers responded to Portland Community College to assist PCC Security officers who were talking with a man who was trespassing in their closed cafeteria and refusing to leave. The man eventually fled from security officers and barricaded himself inside an office on the campus. ECIT officer's Hefley, Allen and Yakots responded and assisted with the response. Officer Ibarra from North Precinct also responded to assist in communications after it was learned that the man's primary language was Spanish.

Officers learned that the man had recently been arrested in Tualatin for a Burglary, and contacted earlier in the day by Hillsboro Police on a Tri-met Bus. The officers talked by phone, through the door and by passing notes under the door but never were able to engage in a clear dialogue.

While the officers attempted to communicate with the man for over an hour they located family members who responded to the scene, talked with the Washington County Crisis Line, Washington County's Mental Health Response Team, and the Police Bureau's Crisis Negotiation Team gathering information to assist in resolving the situation.

After an hour of patiently working to communicate with the man and gather information that would help in getting him to come out safely the man exited the room and was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

2016 NAMI Walk!



BHU members and others during the 2016 NAMI Walk

On May 15, 2016 the BHU participated in the 14th annual NAMI Walks Northwest event, presented by Providence Health & Services to raise awareness and support for NAMI.

NAMI improves the quality of life for people with mental illness and their families through support, education and advocacy. NAMI Walks help support the NAMI mission-driven work.

For more information on NAMI, contact our local affiliate NAMI Multnomah at (503) 228-5692 or info@namimultnomah.org.



ECIT Program Updates

The BHU conducted an ECIT in-service for all PPB members that were ECIT certified in 2013 and 2014. The ECIT course curriculum has evolved since the establishment of the ECIT program in 2013, so it was important to ensure all our ECIT members had the most up-to-date training.

The training included program updates, a risk assessment case study, trauma informed care, and crisis communication refresher and skills exercises. PPB currently has 99 ECIT certified members assigned throughout the bureau. ECIT officers responded to over 700 crisis calls in 2015. The next ECIT course is scheduled for December, 2016.

If you see an officer wearing a pin that looks like the one below, this is a sign that the officer has gone through ECIT training.

Did you know you can request an ECIT officer while talking with 911 or the Portland Police Bureau? If on the phone with the Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC) or speaking with an officer all you need to do is ask for an ECIT officer, if one is available they will be dispatched.

