

# BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FACT SHEET

## 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. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), selected 10 law enforcement agencies to serve as national Law Enforcement-Mental Health (LE-MH) Learning Sites.

Jurisdictions can engage the 10 LE-MH Learning Sites to discuss strategies for improving the outcomes of encounters between law enforcement and people who have mental illnesses. Because many agencies are struggling with the planning process and how to tailor successful implementation of a PMHC, these sites host visits from interested colleagues and other local and state government officials and can share their best practices regarding strategic planning and implementation, data collection, and sustainability when seeking to implement or enhance tailored approaches (such as Crisis Intervention Teams [CIT], co-responder models, and/or mobile crisis teams) to more effectively respond to people who have mental illnesses. They also work with CSG Justice Center staff to develop materials for practitioners and their community partners.



**In 2017, the LE-MH Learning Sites responded to 2,536 technical assistance requests, conducted 121 site visits, and delivered 236 trainings.** Information regarding the 10 LE-MH Learning Sites can be found at <https://csgjusticecenter.org/law-enforcement/projects/mental-health-learning-sites/>. See the table on Page 2 for program highlights at each location.

### Police-Mental Health Collaboration Toolkit

In 2016, BJA launched an online toolkit intended to provide support to law enforcement agencies around the country for planning and implementing programs to more 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 gathers 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 illnesses. [www.bja.gov/pmhc](http://www.bja.gov/pmhc)

## LE-MH Learning Site Program Highlights

Learning Site	Program Highlights
Arlington (MA) PD	Consists of a co-response program and targeted initiatives (spearheaded by a mental health clinician embedded in the police department), which include a Jail Diversion Program, Hoarding Response Team, Elder Abuse Prevention Task Force, and Arlington Opiate Outreach Initiative.
Gallia, Jackson, Meigs Counties (OH) Sheriffs' Offices	Three sheriffs' offices 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 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to all law enforcement personnel.
Houston (TX) PD	Includes a multifaceted strategy staffed by various personnel, including CIT patrol officers, co-responder units, a Homeless Outreach Team, a Boarding Homes Enforcement Detail, a Chronic Consumer Stabilization Initiative, trained dispatchers, and trained jailers.
Los Angeles (CA) PD	Uses a multilayered approach that includes triage by trained dispatchers, co-response teams, followup 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.
Madison County (TN) Sheriff's Office	Operates an interagency collaborative, the Jackson-Madison County Law Enforcement-Mental Health Collaborative, which is essential to the planning, implementation, and provision of critical services to 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.
Madison (WI) PD	Uses a multilayered 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 nonprotected information with line-level officers, and provides training for all officers using scenario-based approaches.
Portland (ME) PD	Embeds mental health professionals in the law enforcement agency and uses a police-mental health co-response model in partnership with a community-based support network. Provides CIT training for all officers.
Salt Lake City (UT) PD	Employs a complementary three-team approach: CIT Team, Homeless Outreach Service Team, and Community Connections Center Team. The CIT multicounty collaboration provides 40 hours of training for patrol and corrections-based academies and a detective in the CIT Investigative Unit who follows up on mental health calls for service.
Tucson (AZ) PD	Uses a multilayered approach employing a co-responder program that pairs Mental Health Support Team officers with mental health clinicians, Crisis Mobile Teams that work in tandem with the crisis line, and a Crisis Response Center. Multitiered training is open to all levels of law enforcement, mental health workers, call takers and dispatchers, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and firefighters.
University of Florida PD	Coordinates with many campus entities involved with student and faculty wellness to provide training for university officers, including onsite support during incidents as well as crisis intervention consultants. It is also positioned to respond to youth in crisis from K-12 through university-age students through the K-12 Developmental Research School on campus.

## Programs and Publications

The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) has supported the development of numerous publications on the intersection of criminal justice and mental health. JMHCP training and technical assistance (TTA) products and tools are intended to support the successful implementation of law enforcement-mental health programs with structured written guidance that has been developed by experienced police agencies. Advanced tools provide written guidance to support the enhancement or expansion of well-established PMHCs. [www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program\\_ID=66](http://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=66)

**Serving Safely** is a national TTA initiative that provides additional resources to law enforcement to improve interactions between police and people affected by mental illnesses and developmental disabilities. The initiative includes leaders in the fields of policing, mental illness, intellectual/developmental disability, crisis intervention, peer advocacy, emergency medicine, technology development, and prosecution to enhance collaborative responses for people affected by mental illnesses and intellectual/developmental disabilities. [www.vera.org/projects/serving-safely](http://www.vera.org/projects/serving-safely)

**Effective Community Responses to People in Mental Health Crises: A National Curriculum for Law Enforcement Based on Best Practices from CIT Programs Nationwide.** This course was developed to expand the reach of effective crisis intervention strategies to law enforcement agencies and to encourage the development of mental health community-law enforcement partnership teams throughout the United States. The curriculum contains 25 modules on various behavioral health and law enforcement topics with the flexibility to customize with special topics and local information. It includes an instructor guide, participant guide, slide deck, pre/post evaluation, certificate, and planning matrix. Leadership support and a dedicated coordinator can ensure long-term success. It is available at no cost to police agencies and mental health authorities. [www.bja.gov/CITmaterials](http://www.bja.gov/CITmaterials)

### *The Variability in Law Enforcement State Standards: A 42-State Survey on Mental Health and Crisis De-escalation Training*

was developed with funding support from BJA, and in partnership with the CSG Justice Center and the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training. The publication provides a snapshot of how state training standards are being used to improve responses to people who have mental illnesses. It includes results from 42 state training authorities, revealing that while nearly all states have law enforcement training standards on mental health and crisis de-escalation, the required training hours, topics, and teaching methods differ widely. <https://csgjusticecenter.org/law-enforcement/publications/the-variability-in-law-enforcement-state-standards/>



## Police-Mental Health Collaboration Program Checklists

These checklists can help law enforcement, behavioral health providers, and local leaders determine whether their PMHC programs align with promising practices for improving outcomes for law enforcement encounters with people who have mental illnesses or who are in mental health crisis. The checklists are designed with the understanding that each law enforcement agency is unique and its PMHC program should be responsive to community needs and consistent with related resources in that jurisdiction. The checklists will help to determine whether a program is comprehensive and effective based on its alignment with the essential elements of a PMHC. Each checklist also addresses the particular management and oversight responsibilities of a given administrator. [www.bja.gov/pmhc](http://www.bja.gov/pmhc)

- Checklist for Law Enforcement Leaders
- Checklist for Law Enforcement Program Managers
- Checklist for Behavioral Health Agency Leaders
- Checklist for County and City Leaders

## ABOUT BJA

BJA helps to make American communities safer by strengthening the nation's criminal justice system: Its 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 [www.bja.gov](http://www.bja.gov) or follow us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DOJBJA](https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA)) and Twitter (@DOJBJA). BJA is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs.