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Chief Sam White Lower Elwha Klallam Police Department

Steven D. Strachan **Executive Director**

Mr. Bernard Dean

Chief Clerk of the House Bernard.Dean@leg.wa.gov

Mr. Brad Hendrickson Secretary of the Senate

Brad.Hendrickson@leg.wa.gov

Dear Mr. Dean and Mr. Hendrickson:

Pursuant to Chapter 142, Laws of 2018, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs is submitting its annual report on the Mental Health Field

Response Teams Program in accordance with RCW 43.01.136.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Strachan **Executive Director**

SDS:dg Enclosure

Mental Health Field Response Teams Grant Program Annual Legislative Report - 2021

Introduction

During the 2020-2021 session, the Washington Legislature continued its commitment to fund the Mental Health Field Response Teams Program and appropriated \$2 million for grants and operation of the program in the 2020 and 2021 Supplemental Operating Budgets. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) operates the grant program. The purpose of the program is to assist local law enforcement establish and/or expand mental health field response capabilities, utilizing mental health professionals to professionally, humanely, and safely respond to crises involving persons with behavioral health issues with treatment, diversion, and reduce incarceration.

With a recent change in statute, WASPC is now required to submit an annual report to the governor and appropriate committees of the legislature on the program by September 1st of each year the program is funded. WASPC's report includes information on the grant recipients, use of funds, participation of mental health professionals, and feedback from the grant recipients as of the date of the report.

Grants to Use Sequential Intercept Model

WASPC has focused on programs where crisis intervention trained mental health professionals are immediately available to officers or to respond in person when called. Additionally, mental health field response programs are required to include staff and short-term services to reduce the likelihood the individual will have future criminal justice system involvement. These support services could include short term respite beds (e.g. crisis stabilization centers and E&Ts) and other inpatient beds.

WASPC adopted the Sequential Intercept Model (SMI) Intercept 1 as part of the original grant requirements in 2018. The SMI is used by many stakeholders as a guide to behavioral health service system transformation, and more specifically as a tool to identify strategies to better respond to the needs of people with behavioral health conditions who come into contact with the criminal justice system. This model consists of five points of interception at which one might intervene to prevent vulnerable individuals from deeper involvement with the justice system.

Intercept 1: Law Enforcement – Pre-Arrest Diversion.

The first point of intercept includes interactions with law enforcement personnel, who sometimes serve as first responders during mental health emergencies and can be key partners to behavioral health and emergency services personnel. Interventions at this intercept have in the past been largely focused on the education and training of police officers in their capacity as first responders. WASPC went beyond training and add the component of co-response with mental health professionals to Intercept 1 through this grant program.

Data Collection Tool

WASPC continued to partner with OpenLattice, Inc. to provide the Crisis Template and Administrative Dashboard to WASPC and all Grantee Agencies. OpenLattice is a technology company focused on providing vulnerable populations with the best possible resources to equip them with real-time information in the field. OpenLattice believes that providing this information responsibly and safely, while simultaneously protecting the person's privacy, will lead to better long-term outcomes.

OpenLattice developed a data collection component (Crisis Template) to allow officers/clinicians to quickly collect key data points after an encounter with persons who may have a mental illness, chemical dependency, or are currently homeless. OpenLattice has created an administrative dashboard (Admin Dashboard) to show a visualization of the information collected in the Crisis Template. Both of these collection tools have been

problematic for users to gain access to historical information from previous encounters with individuals, hampering attempts by some teams to follow up with individuals in their community.

One of the greatest challenges found in the implementation of similar co-responder programs in other areas of the country has been obtaining relevant data. Many departments struggle to collect calls for service data which involve someone in a mental health or chemical dependency crisis. This lack of information creates a "blind spot" when addressing the sensitive and dynamic nature of these calls. Data collection involvements will help law enforcement agencies to understand how many 911 calls involve mental health, what happens on these calls, how officers generally respond to specific behaviors, and how resources are being used on the calls. The data collection helps to bridge these gaps in knowledge – and enables data-driven decisions. The data collected includes:

- Observed subject behaviors during the call
- Weapons (if any) present on the call
- Actions / techniques used by the officer(s)
- Training level of the officer(s) at the scene
- Disposition of the call (specific to calls with individuals experiencing mental illness), such as arrest or referral to a service provider

Mental Health Field Response Team 2020-2021

In June 2020, WASPC awarded nine grants to the following agencies:

Grant Award Agencies	Award Amount
Kirkland, Shoreline, Bothell, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore PD (Joint)	\$80,000.00
Kitsap Co. Sheriff	\$88,217.00
Olympia PD	\$100,000.00
Pierce Co. Sheriff	\$350,733.00
Port Angeles PD	\$84,000.00
Redmond PD	\$46,513.00
Spokane Co. Sheriff, Spokane PD (Joint)	\$698,750.00
Vancouver PD	\$314,917.00
Wenatchee & East Wenatchee PD and Chelan and Douglas CO SO (Joint)	\$56,070.00

1. Kirkland Police Department (Lead Agency), Shoreline Police Department, Kenmore Police Department, Lake Forest Park Police Department and Bothell Police Department

Kirkland Police Department, and the other agencies requested continued funding for their Response, Awareness, De-escalation, & Referral or "RADAR" Navigator Program. The goals of RADAR are to enhance community and first responder safety by reducing police use of physical force, strengthen community/police partnerships, and increase the connection of persons at risk with effective behavioral health treatment and services.

The RADAR Navigator Program gives the police vital assistance when they respond to calls that involve persons with behavioral health issues. A mental health professional (MHP) works side-by-side with an officer, to provide immediate crisis intervention, more sophisticated diagnostic assessment and follow up. The Navigator MHP provides coordination for longer term community support. Families in crisis often do not know where to go to get help for their loved ones. This model allows for the education of the family and individuals about services available so that they can better advocate on their behalf.

The MHP works with responding officers as a "Crisis Intervention Team" (CIT) to direct a person into services that deal with an emergent need, crisis assessment, de-escalation, service referrals and case management. The need for an MHP is not always clear until the team arrives on a scene. As outlined in the following example not all cases are clear cut mental health issues, but as a professional, the MHP can most always be of use.

Currently there are three RADAR Navigator MHPs. With the funds provided through this grant, the hours have increased from volunteer hours in some jurisdictions to approximately 40-50 hours per week covering all shifts for all five departments.

Total persons contacted – 357

2. Kitsap Co. Sheriff's Office

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) subcontracts with Kitsap Mental Health Services (KMHS) for a full time Designated Crisis Responder (DCR), sited at the office in Silverdale, a central point in the large geographic territory covered by the KCSO. The DCR was available for calls directly to their cell phone, calls funneled by 911 or from law enforcement directly. The DCR assisted patrol officers to provide guidance during calls for suicide, mental health, or behavioral health issues. The DCR was able to provide assessments including secure inpatient placement if an individual met the threshold for evaluation and treatment services. The DCR provided connections to the appropriate diversion alternative for persons not requiring detainment to a psychiatric facility or hospital, and able to be diverted from jail.

Short term alternatives included the Kitsap County Crisis Triage Center, Kitsap Recovery Center Detox, several shelters, facilitated outpatient treatment through walk-in access for their first visit to KMHS, calls to a person's case manager, visits by a KMHS Peer Specialist, or information and referral for service information such as a food bank, legal assistance or the Housing Solutions Center.

Overall, the relationship with the patrol officers and the DCRs has been positive, often with a favorable outcome. The MHFRT were able to de-escalate and assist individuals using a comprehensive approach. The DCR and the dedicated Crisis Intervention Officer have exceeded KCSO's expectations to get much needed help to those with very difficult cases. They have been able to respond to active scenes as well as follow up on individuals who need more long-term solutions in the community in which they live, thereby reducing future crisis calls. Unfortunately, based on the calls for services there have been more individuals that needed assistance than KCSO had the ability to serve.

Total persons contacted - 1350

3. Olympia Police Department

The Olympia Police Department (OPD) and Catholic Community Services (CCS) of Olympia collaborated to create the Familiar Faces Program. The Familiar Faces Program consist of a Mental Health Professional (MHP) and two Familiar Faces Peer Navigators. The MHP assists the Familiar Faces Peers in treatment plans, referrals, and response to crisis calls. While the clients in the Familiar Faces Program suffer from chronic behavioral health conditions, there are also times of acute crisis where the experienced MHP is deployed.

The Familiar Faces Program deploys a cross-system approach to allow the team to remove barriers to effective interventions and deploy purposeful interventions facilitated by CCS Peer Navigators and the clinical expertise of the CCS mental health professional. In collaboration with the OPD officers, CCS Peer Navigators and the MHP, the team has been able to address the specific and complex needs of the City's Familiar Faces Program such as:

Concrete support – housing, employment, primary health care or legal services

- Connection to information and referrals to community support resources for health and wellness
- Connection to recovery community support, activities, and events

The Familiar Faces Program works with the most system resistant and complex community members. These individuals are the highest utilizers of law enforcement engagement and contact. When individuals are referred to the Familiar Faces Program via a law enforcement, OPD has been able track the individual's subsequent law enforcement contacts. Familiar Faces clients who work with peers have a dramatic decrease in law enforcement contacts.

Total persons contacted - 2287

4. Pierce County Sheriff's Department

The Pierce County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) program operates with co-responders who are embedded with the deputies who work in the precincts and detachments throughout the county. PCSD has sought to improve mental health field response and diversion from incarceration through modified or expanded law enforcement practices in partnership with mental health professionals. This program is designed to be staffed with designated crisis responders and not case managers. During initial contact, the designated crisis responders assess the risk and determine the level of services that may be required to meet an individual's mental health or substance use needs.

The co-responders deployed in the field are able to assist law enforcement with call de-escalation and move the participant toward services rather than jail. The network established provides the linkage to services such as medical treatment, behavioral mental health services, job and housing placement assistance and other needs.

PCSD partners with MultiCare's behavioral health department to provide mental health and substance use disorder outpatient services and psychiatric inpatient services for adolescents, adults, and geriatrics. MultiCare is also linked with community providers such as Metropolitan Development Center's Detox Center, the Recovery Response Stabilization Center, Comprehensive Life Resources, Greater Lakes Mental Health, Sea Mar, Kawachee, and local evaluation and treatment facilities.

The primary goal of this program is to divert the individual from jail or an emergency room and intervene during the crisis and refer/coordinate to case management services of an individual's choice based on their preference, location or funding.

Providers for services include but are not limited to: MultiCare's behavioral health outpatient (mental health, substance use, and Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT), Greater Lakes Mental Health, Comprehensive Life resources (mental health and homeless services), Northwest Integrated Health (substance use disorders) and a few others. The case management services may include individual sessions, referral for psychiatric evaluations, assistance with housing and care coordination with managed care organizations.

Total persons contacted – 1617

5. Port Angeles Police Department

The Port Angeles Police Department (PAPD) continued to partner with the Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic (OPCC) and designed a coordinated response program called "ReDiscovery" to address the needs of persons with behavior health issues. PAPD encounters persons multiple times a day who need services that often includes both short- and long-term mental health services. PAPD no longer lost track of the person or lost the opportunity to get them into services with an embedded social worker.

The ReDiscovery program partnership between PAPD and OPCC had already existed. The funds from the MHFRT grant and a grant from Clallam County allowed PAPD to improve its response. The ReDiscovery objective is to expand resources available to the program in the form of additional trained staff that coordinates outreach efforts between PAPD, OPCC, the Port Angeles Fire Department, the Clallam County Sheriff's Office and the Sequim Police Department.

PAPD found that persons referred or newly introduced to services showed a much higher rate of follow through than those for whom services were simply recommended.

Total persons contacted – 1181

6. Redmond PD

The Redmond Police Department program continues to leverage the city's partnership with IKRON of Greater Seattle and the local organizations within the Community Resource Center. This was achieved by ensuring the mental health professional (MHP) was an active member of the MHFRT by joining the team in the field to respond to calls for service. The MHP provides the initial psychosocial needs assessment that helps determine the services needed. Depending on the degree of severity, the MHP can facilitate hospital admissions both voluntary and through custodial transfer or assist with transition back to the community.

The program aims to divert individuals at the earliest opportunity into community-based service alternatives for: crisis intervention, screening, assessment, and referral to treatment before an arrest was made. The partnership with IKRON of Greater Seattle, as well as the access to the Community Resource Center ensured the department could provide both a rapid response for immediate intervention as well as access to a full array of other services the patient may need. A very intentional effort was made to consider the wide range of needs for all involved. The program was adapted to meet the changing demographic needs and balance with the available resources, personnel and acuity. Unfortunately, in early March 2021 staffing the mental health position became problematic and Redmond was unable to fill the position which has negatively affecting the program.

Total persons contacted - 175

7. Spokane County Sheriff's Office (Lead Agency) and Spokane Police Department

The goal of the joint Spokane County Sheriff and Spokane Police Department program was to create a patrol-based unit to address calls for service regarding individuals who are in a behavioral health crisis. A reduction in the number of service calls that required patrol response, to high utilizers were identified, and their needs addressed. This increased our ability to provide services and resources to those experiencing behavioral health crises.

Each co-deployed team is an officer/deputy paired with a master's level clinician. Each team is required to have a minimum of 30 crisis contacts each month. Co-deployed teams offer resources to individuals in crisis before they meet Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) criteria and therefore reduce the rate of recidivism, emergency room visits and incarceration. Additionally, they build rapport, identify a baseline behavior and mitigate often high-risk situations due to the program's interaction with those in crisis.

The unit has had a measurable impact on patrol and is an invaluable resource to local law enforcement agencies. Long term solutions have been identified for high utilizers and, while still a work in progress, many of the identified high utilizers have reduced their calls for service to patrol. The unit has been able to identify needs on patrol and implement changes. Local media has produced multiple stories on the unit to include the change in our responses due to COVID-19.

8. Vancouver Police Department

The Vancouver Police Department, in coordination with Sea Mar Community Health Centers, had initially intended to add full-time dedicated personnel for field deployment, but experienced hiring difficulties during their last grant period due to a combination of factors. During this grant period, they determined that it would be more effective to add new positions to the baseline and deploy more experienced mental health professionals in the field as a rotating assignment, while new hires developed experience and familiarity with the system before being assigned to the field work rotation.

The Co-Responder Team as a collaborative partnership with local law enforcement within the Vancouver Police Department service area to foster proactive working relationships and enhance access to crisis services in Clark County. These program goals included supporting individuals involved in emergency 911 calls with accessing evidence based rapid response behavioral health supports (trauma informed care, risk assessment, safety planning, assisting with access to treatment/providers, provision of peer support services, etc.).

These services and collaborations further support a larger goal of diverting the people we serve from unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice system. Sea Mar and VPD utilizes a 10-15-minute Co-Responder response time goal as a measure of rapid response to in-progress 911 calls with police officers on scene. In addition to diverting the need for incarceration, Co-Responder has sought to provide individuals with the resources and behavioral health supports they need for stabilization/to avoid hospitalization (and/or higher level of care involvement) and maintain a successful presence in the community.

Total persons contacted – 161

9. Wenatchee Police Department (Lead Agency), *East* Wenatchee Police Department, Chelan County Sheriff's Office and Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

In 2015, Wenatchee Police Department (WPD) partnered with Catholic Family and Child Services, now known as Catholic Charites Serving Central Washington, to provide crisis response services to law enforcement. Catholic Charities remains the contract service provider for Crisis and Mental Health services for Chelan and Douglas Counties. The initial focus was on high volume contacts to divert them from being a draw on public safety and law enforcement and provide behavioral health services. The program grew from a single staff member from Catholic Charites who responded to requests from officers with WPD to a small staff of Designated Crisis Responders (DCRs) with Designated Mental Health Professionals (DMHPs) who respond to calls for service from WPD, the East Wenatchee Police Department, the Chelan County Sheriff's Office, and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

The Agencies work together closely, and expanded coverage has become invaluable to the successful diversion of patients into services instead of involuntary commitment or arrest. Additionally, the rapid response to the field has delivered improved public and agency perception of mental health workers in this region.

By mid-October 2019, coverage fell off dramatically with the death of Eric Skansgaard, the lead DCR with Catholic Charities. There was no coverage in November due to the complete shutdown of the Catholic Charites DCR office. It became painfully clear there was a single point of failure in the program. While the loss of the lead alone would not have hampered the ability to manage the data, the subsequent departure of other Catholic Charites staff did. Efforts to hire and replace staff were difficult, but eventually for the 2020-2021 grant period, Catholic Charities obtained new staff and the program has since had success.

Additional Awards January 2021-June 2021

WASPC received an additional \$650,000 from the Washington Health Care Authority to support Non-Trueblood law enforcement agencies with expanding or creating new Mental Health Field Response Teams. In December 2020, a Peer Review Panel was assembled that included:

Sheriff Joe Nole, Jefferson County

Chief James Schrimpsher, Algona Police

Ms. Martiann Lewis, MA, LMHC, Kitsap Mental Health

Ms. Siobhan Brown, MPH, CPH, CHES, Community Health Plan of Washington

Ms. Kim Goodman, WASPC Chief of Staff

Mr. John McGrath, WASPC MHFRT Grant Administrator

The following agencies applied for this additional funding:

Agency	Amount Requested	
Bellevue PD	\$	278,095
Des Moines PD (Lead Agency) with Algona PD, Auburn PD, Black Diamond PD, Federal Way PD, Kent PD, Pacific PD, Renton PD, Tukwila PD	\$	464,224
Issaquah PD	\$	121,450
Jefferson Co. Sheriff	\$	79,054
Marysville PD (Lead Agency) with Arlington PD, Lake Stevens PD	\$	95,900
*Olympia PD	\$	94,455
*Port Angeles PD	\$	84,000
Poulsbo PD	\$	60,234
*Redmond PD	\$	67,696
Skagit Co. Sheriff	\$	323,700

^{*}Agency was already receiving WASPC MHFRT Grant Funds

After conducting interviews with all of the grant applicants, the Peer Review Panel awarded the following agencies:

Agency	Funded Amount	
Des Moines PD (Lead Agency) with Algona PD, Auburn PD, Black Diamond PD, Federal Way PD, Kent PD, Pacific PD, Renton PD, Tukwila PD	\$	134,128
Jefferson Co. Sheriff	\$	79,054
Marysville PD (Lead Agency) with Arlington PD, Lake Stevens PD	\$	95,900
*Olympia PD	\$	60,840
*Port Angeles PD	\$	47,600
Poulsbo PD	\$	60,234
Skagit Co. Sheriff	\$	73,540

^{*}Agency was already receiving WASPC MHFRT Grant Funds

1. Des Moines PD (Lead Agency) with Algona PD, Auburn PD, Black Diamond PD, Federal Way PD, Kent PD, Pacific PD, Renton PD, Tukwila PD

The South King County Co-Responder Program is a partnership that includes the police departments of Algona, Auburn, Black Diamond, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Pacific, Renton and Tukwila along with the King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (BHRD) and King County Behavioral Health agencies to provide a coordinated response to those in South King County experiencing mental health crisis and emergencies. This partnership between law enforcement and mental health professionals is the collaborative effort necessary to respond to community members in need. This shared approach has been shown to improve engagement with people experiencing crises and reduce the rate in which individuals experiencing mental health crises are incarcerated.

The mental health co-responders engaged directly with officers from the participating law enforcement agencies and are employees of a licensed behavioral health agency. The co-responders respond from the Des Moines Police Sub-Station. This location borders three of the participating agency jurisdictions.

This program experienced a significant delay in startup due to the lack of available mental health staff. After four months, the positions were eventually filled, and the teams were able to respond to calls for service.

Total persons contacted – 31

2. Jefferson Co. Sheriff

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) embedded one mental health professional ("Navigator") into their patrol division. The JCSO Navigator works alongside the Port Townsend Police Department (PTPD) Navigator, fulfilling several roles that include, but are not limited to, responding in-person to calls for service with deputies to address behavioral health related issues and assist with de-escalation; when appropriate, recommend diversion alternatives to arrest; provide appropriate referrals to community members seeking services; and conducting outreach to high-risk or vulnerable populations (i.e., individuals experiencing homelessness, severely and chronically mentally ill, older adults).

Total persons contacted – 76

3. Marysville PD (Lead Agency) with Arlington PD, Lake Stevens PD

The Marysville Police Department in partnership with the Arlington Police Department, Lake Stevens Police Department, and Compass Health implemented a coordinated Mental Health Field Response Team. The Mental Health Field Response Team was a new program dedicated to the expeditious delivery of treatment, and similar resources, to persons exhibiting signs and symptoms of mental and behavioral health concerns. The agencies are devoted to prioritizing the diversion of individuals in crisis from incarceration by interrupting the cyclical pattern of symptomatic behaviors for those persons who have a higher risk due to frequent law enforcement interactions.

Total persons contacted - 151

4. Olympia PD

The Olympia Police Department has operated the "Familiar Faces" program since 2018 in partnership with Catholic Community Services of Olympia. "Familiar Faces" can best be defined as individuals in the community with complex health and behavioral problems and frequent and persistent contact with the police department's Walking Patrol, Crisis Response Unit, Corrections Officers, Downtown Ambassadors, and other City staff. Recognizing the growing needs in the community and constant referrals from officers, Olympia Police requested funding for a Designated Crisis Responder (DCR). The focus for the DCR into the Familiar Faces program was intended to assist the current Familiar Faces peers and mental health professional with successful

treatment plans for the more acutely ill clients and to assist OPD patrol officer and corrections officers with community detainments.

Total persons contacted - 29

5. Port Angeles PD

The existing Port Angeles Police Department and Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic REdisCOVERY mental health field co-response program has served more than 500 unique individuals in the 2-plus years the program has existed. In 2020, with homelessness increasing in Port Angeles and COVID issues straining the community, the ability of PAPD and REdisCOVERY to provide necessary services to community members was strained. Need and demand for outstripped the program's capacity, and looking ahead, that demand is projected to increase. In order to better address the growing need, Port Angeles received funding to cover the backfill of overtime for one patrol officer to the designated field response officer for up to 20 hours per week.

Total persons contacted - 1181

6. Poulsbo PD

The Poulsbo Police Department has successfully managed a four-department co-response/field response program since 2018. For two years, the program paired Police Navigators with police officers in Poulsbo, Bainbridge Island, Port Orchard and Bremerton. In December of 2020, County grant funding for a four-city Navigator program expired, leaving all of the participating cities responsible for their own Navigator programs. The City of Poulsbo committed \$50,000 in 2021 for a part-time Navigator position, and with the additional funding from this grant, Poulsbo was able to hire a full-time employee. The Poulsbo Navigator primarily assists Poulsbo police and residents of Poulsbo but is available to help other agencies and individuals when possible/appropriate.

Navigators respond with officers to calls involving individuals whose behavior is affected by mental illness, mental health and substance use disorders. More frequently, they take police referrals about these encounters after police contact and follow up with outreach—either independently or with an officer. The aim of Navigator outreach is to connect people to needed services. Navigators help individuals understand treatment options, for example, and rules related to insurance. They make appointments, coordinate the work of care providers, and bring individuals experiencing crisis or at risk of crisis to Designated Crisis Responders' attention. Systems navigated include behavioral health (mental health, substance use), primary care, benefits, and housing.

Total persons contacted - 120

7. Skagit Co. Sheriff

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office requested funding to expand the Compass Health's Integrated Model of Police and Crisis Teams (IMPACT) program. IMPACT is structured as a true partnership between licensed mental health clinicians and local law enforcement. Each officer is partnered with a licensed mental health clinician and respond jointly. The funding provided by this program paid for two mental health clinicians to be assigned to the Sheriff's Office.

The five identified goals for the IMPACT Program include:

- 1. To provide early and voluntary behavioral health intervention and increase access to behavioral health services.
- 2. Reduce calls for service which require a level of expertise outside the scope of law enforcement.
- 3. De-escalation of community members experiencing a mental health crisis.

- 4. Decrease use of 911 system for non-emergent calls by high utilizers of services.
- 5. Improve community relationships by offering interventions to high risk community members in need of additional supportive services.

Total persons contacted - 887

Mental Health Field Response Teams Grant Awards Overview 2021-2022

The 2021-2022 legislative appropriations have been restricted as follows:

- \$3.5M per year (designated to only Trueblood, et. al. v. Department of Social and Health Services identified Phase One and Two Regions. Phase One and Two Regions include the Spokane Region, Pierce County Region, Southwest Washington Region and King County.
- \$500,000 per year for Mental Health Field Response Grants (no Trueblood restrictions).

An additional \$840,000 was received from the Washington Health Care Authority to support Non-Trueblood law enforcement agencies.

In June 2021, WASPC assembled a Peer Review Team to interview the grant applicants. The Peer Review Team members were:

Sheriff John Snaza, Thurston County Sheriff Joe Nole, Jefferson County Chief James Schrimpsher, Alogona Police Chief Gregory Cobb, Union Gap Police Chief Scott Bieber, Walla Walla Police

Ms. Martiann Lewis, MA, LMHC, Kitsap Mental Health

Ms. Siobhan Brown, MPH, CPH, CHES, Community Health Plan of Washington

Ms. Kim Goodman, WASPC Chief of Staff

Mr. John McGrath, WASPC MHFRT Grant Administrator

With input from the Peer Review Panel on wanting more opportunity for smaller agencies to participate, WASPC required agencies to partner with at least one other law enforcement agency. The following applications were received:

Lead Agency	Joint Agencies	Reques	ted Amount
Des Moines PD	Algona PD, Auburn PD, Federal Way PD, Kent PD, Pacific PD, Renton PD, Tukwila PD	\$	415,060
Hoquiam PD	Aberdeen PD, Cosmopolis PD	\$	86,014
Jefferson SO	Port Townsend PD	\$	128,821
Kirkland PD	Bothell PD, Shoreline PD, Lake Forest Park PD, Kenmore PD	\$	87,973
Kitsap SO	Port Orchard PD	\$	283,042
Longview PD	Kelso PD, Kalama PD, Woodland PD, Castle Rock PD, Cowlitz SO	\$	215,072
Marysville PD	Arlington PD, Lake Stevens PD	\$	380,800
Pierce SO	Fife PD, Bonney Lake PD, Eatonville PD, Buckley PD, Edgewood PD DuPont PD, Fircrest PD, Gig Harbor PD, Roy PD, Milton PD, Ruston PD, Orting PD, Steilacoom PD, Pierce Transit PD, Sumner PD, Puyallup PD, University Place PD, Puyallup Tribal PD	-	569,075

Port Angeles PD	Clallam SO, Sequim PD	\$ 267,285
Poulsbo PD	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe PD	\$ 122,427
Skagit SO	Burlington PD, Sedro Woolley PD	\$ 183,840
Spokane SO	Spokane PD, Spokane Valley PD	\$ 3,292,099
Vancouver PD	US Dept. of Veteran Affairs PD, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad PD	\$ 769,888
Wenatchee PD	Chelan SO, Douglas SO, East Wenatchee PD	\$ 78,118

Awards

The Peer Review Panel conducted interviews in the month of June 2021 with all of the Lead Agencies. The following amounts were awarded to the Trueblood Restricted agencies:

Lead Agency	Joint Agencies	<u>Func</u>	ded Amount
Des Moines PD	Algona PD, Auburn PD, Federal Way PD, Kent PD, Pacific PD, Renton PD, Tukwila PD	\$	314,561.11
Kirkland PD	Bothell PD, Shoreline PD, Lake Forest Park PD, Kenmore PD	\$	75,500.00
Pierce SO	Fife PD, Bonney Lake PD, Eatonville PD, Buckley PD, Edgewood PD, DuPont PD, Fircrest PD, Gig Harbor PD, Roy PD, Milton PD, Ruston PD, Orting PD, Steilacoom PD, Pierce Transit PD, Sumner PD, Puyallup PD, University Place PD, Puyallup Tribal PD	\$	487,900.00
Spokane SO	Spokane PD, Spokane Valley PD	\$ 1	1,783,533.00
Vancouver PD	US Dept. of Veteran Affairs PD, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad PD	\$	636,986.40

1. Des Moines Police Department (Lead Agency) with Algona PD, Auburn PD, Federal Way PD, Kent PD, Pacific PD, Renton PD, Tukwila PD

This program is a proud partnership that includes the police departments of Algona, Auburn, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Pacific, Renton and Tukwila along with the King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (BHRD) and King County Behavioral Health agencies to provide a coordinated response to those in South King County experiencing mental health crisis and emergencies or for whom there is high utilization of the 911 or first responder systems due to suspected behavioral health needs.

This partnership between law enforcement and mental health providers is the collaborative effort necessary to respond to community members in need. This approach has been shown to improve engagement with people experiencing crises and reduce the rate in which individuals experiencing mental health crises are incarcerated.

Funding allocated for:

- One Mental Health Professional
- Two Peer Support Personnel
- One Mental Health Supervisor
- One Dispatcher
- \$4,000 for miscellaneous training

2. Kirkland Police Department (Lead Agency) with Bothell PD, Shoreline PD, Lake Forest Park PD, Kenmore PD

The Kirkland Police Department and the partners that make up the North Sound RADAR Navigator Program to include the Shoreline, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, and Bothell Police Departments have been awarded funding for the continuation and expansion of the Navigator services currently provided and in development by the RADAR police agencies.

RADAR (Response Awareness, De-escalation and Referral) is an effort by the Police Departments in Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell and Kirkland that combines information sharing across departments and mobile social work outreach for people living with behavioral health conditions. RADAR aims to institutionalize information sharing about community members with behavioral health issues or developmental disabilities who may be at increased risk of violence or use of force, and to provide outreach and connection to resources through Mental Health Professional (MHP) Navigators.

Mental Health Navigators focus on moving people into community-based and long-term systems of care to reduce reliance on the crisis and criminal legal systems and improve people's lives. The unique interjurisdictional nature of the program recognizes that people often move throughout a region and capitalizes on economies of scale in staffing and administration.

In consultation with MHP Navigators, RADAR agencies create and maintain "Response Plans" which offer law enforcement personnel guidance on how to de-escalate an individual in the community. The goal of these plans is to reduce use of force and offer tailored interventions for people with behavioral health disabilities based on their unique needs and preferences.

In addition, when officers encounter someone with a behavioral health or basic need, they refer to an MHP Navigator for follow up assessment and referral. Often, this looks like a social worker reaching out to someone within a few days of their contact with police to help connect them to basic needs or mental health resources in the community, thus reducing crisis events and interaction with the criminal justice system for people living with behavioral health conditions.

Funding allocated for:

- One Part Time Mental Health Professional
- \$4,000 for miscellaneous training
- 3. Pierce County Sheriff's Office (Lead Agency) with Fife PD, Bonney Lake PD, Eatonville PD, Buckley PD, Edgewood PD, DuPont PD, Fircrest PD, Gig Harbor PD, Roy PD, Milton PD, Ruston PD, Orting PD, Steilacoom PD, Pierce Transit PD, Sumner PD, Puyallup PD, University Place PD, Puyallup Tribal PD

The Pierce County Sheriff's Office Co-Responder program operates as a regional asset available to all the law enforcement agencies in Pierce County, with the exception of the cities of Lakewood and Tacoma who operate their own programs. The co-responders are embedded with the deputies working in the precincts and detachments throughout the County and are available to assist law enforcement in addressing citizens in crisis from 0700 to 0400 hours, 7 days a week. The co-responders are contracted by the Pierce County Sheriff's Department through MultiCare and have a supervisor that is also contracted through MultiCare.

The Pierce County Sheriff's Office has sought to improve mental health field response and diversion from incarceration through modifying or expanding law enforcement practices in partnership with mental health professionals. In addition to its field response, the Pierce County Sheriff's Office takes an active role in many meetings and committees with county stakeholders. Meetings range from administrative, operational,

budgetary, and strategic planning. Included in the meetings are members representing various agencies participating in diversion efforts - including courts, corrections, law enforcement, mental health practitioners, county departments, and service providers.

Pierce County's District Court has been actively engaged in criminal justice diversion since 2014 when the District Court first contracted with The Center for Court Innovation (CCI) to study the need for a mental health court. Initially, stakeholders declined to add a mental health court. Stakeholders recommended the District Court establish the Probation Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) to carry a specialized caseload of defendants with a mental health diagnosis and/or co-occurring disorder. Since 2015, the BHU has gathered data and measured progress on closing gaps identified in the CCI study. This policy has changed, and Pierce County District Court is currently evaluating and implementing a Mental Health Court. The District Court desires to partner with our Co-Responder Program as they craft a comprehensive solution to address low-level mental health problems in the criminal justice system.

Funding allocated for:

- Three Designated Crisis Responders
- \$4,000 for miscellaneous training

4. Spokane County Sheriff's Office (Lead Agency) with Spokane PD, Spokane Valley PD

Spokane County Mental Health Field Response Team (SCMHFRT) program which consists of the local partnership of the Spokane County Sheriff's Office, the Spokane Police Department, the Spokane Valley Police Department and Frontier Behavioral Health. With continued funding awarded from this grant, the SCMHFRT will expand its operation by providing boundary-less coverage resulting in individuals receiving services regardless of which law enforcement entity may be involved.

The SCMHFRT was initially formed by four co-responder Community Diversion Unit teams funded by Disability Rights of Washington and administered by the Seattle Foundation. This team approach was designed to create mental health field response units which would utilize Mental Health Professionals to respond to local enforcement encounters involving individuals with mental health issues by addressing these individuals in a professional, humane and safe manner.

Similar to the 2018 Community Diversion Unit, the SCMHFRT shares the same goals related to Intercept 1 and Trueblood Class Members, including:

- Prevention of Trueblood Class Member involvement and recidivism in the criminal legal system,
- Reduction of the demand for competency services,
- Minimizing the harm inflicted on Trueblood Class Members by reducing criminal legal involvement and long-term incarceration rates, and
- Serving Class Members in the least restrictive environment.

The mission of the SCMHFRT is to reduce the impact which behavioral health issues have on individuals and the community. The SCMHFRT proactively responds to calls for service for people who are experiencing crisis and connects them to resources, thus diverting them from the criminal justice system and local hospital emergency rooms.

Funding allocated for:

- Seven Mental Health Professionals
- One Mental Health Coordinator
- One Sergeant

- Three Deputies
- Four Officers
- \$4,000 for miscellaneous training

5. Vancouver Police Department (Lead Agency) with US Dept. of Veteran Affairs PD, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad PD

The Vancouver Police Department, SeaMar, and other key stakeholders have already worked together to establish a robust crisis services network model that includes a 24/7 Crisis Line, a Youth Mobile Outreach Team, an Adult Mobile Outreach Team, and an Involuntary Treatment Program that provides intervention and evaluation in the community. Their plan is to bring together resources for the Adult Mobile Crisis Team (operated by Sea Mar Community Services Northwest) and the Involuntary Treatment Program (operated by Clark County) to provide an on-call mental health field response team that can respond to behavioral health crises in the community and assist law enforcement officers anywhere within the City of Vancouver.

The Clark-Vancouver Mental Health Rapid Response Crisis Team program is modeled after existing successful programs already in place in Washington State, specifically the Co-Responder program currently being implemented in Pierce County. In the Clark-Vancouver model, a mental health professional and a peer counselor support specialist from the adult mobile team respond to a location in the community by 9-1-1 dispatch or by on-scene law enforcement. A clinical evaluation is conducted by a mental health professional to determine an appropriate level of care for the person of concern, and to evaluate the level of risk to the individual and to the community. The goal of this on-call field-based intervention is to provide an effective alternative to incarceration or hospitalization of individuals in crisis. Once the scene is safe and legal requirements are met, Vancouver Police officers transition the scene to Sea Mar responders, so that the individual of concern can receive needed behavioral health treatment, while law enforcement officers can leave and respond to other emergency calls.

Funding allocated for:

- Four Mental Health Professionals
- Two Peers
- \$4,000 for miscellaneous training

The following amounts were awarded to Non-Trueblood Restricted areas:

Lead Agency	Joint Agencies	Funded Amount	
Hoquiam PD	Aberdeen PD, Cosmopolis PD	\$	86,015.79
Jefferson SO	Port Townsend PD	\$	116,817.60
Kitsap SO	Port Orchard PD	\$	204,216.00
Longview PD	Kelso PD, Kalama PD, Woodland PD, Castle Rock PD, Cowlitz SO	\$	194,535.94
Marysville PD	Arlington PD, Lake Stevens PD, Tulalip Tribe PD	\$	262,500.00
Port Angeles PD	Clallam SO, Sequim PD	\$	114,000.00
Poulsbo PD	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe PD	\$	82,640.00
Skagit SO	Burlington PD, Sedro Woolley PD	\$	174,000.00
Wenatchee PD	Chelan SO, Douglas SO, East Wenatchee PD	\$	73,017.60

1. Hoquiam Police Department (Lead Agency) with Aberdeen PD, Cosmopolis PD

The Hoquiam Police Departments along with the Aberdeen and Cosmopolis Police Departments have been awarded funded for a single full-time Navigator position to incorporate a mental health professional into their mental health field response planning and services. There currently is no such program, service or employee in this area performing this function.

In the Great Rivers region serving Grays Harbor to date, there have been 112 "no bed" reports: 15 due to psychiatric acuity (which includes patients "blacklisted" due to past behavior/security risks); 36 no-beds available (with the vast majority due to a lack of transportation to an otherwise available bed outside the county, but no Medicaid-reimbursed transportation available or willing to serve the patient); and 61 due to medical acuity (patient needs assistance with activities of daily living or a chronic health condition). Grays Harbor was identified as an especially challenging area to serve clients in need of higher level of care with transportation needs due to the lack of coordination and available service providers.

It is clear the challenge in connecting behavioral health needs with available local services is great; the police departments believe this Navigator, as the first such position created in Grays Harbor County, will provide a critical function for public safety and specifically those in crisis who frequently come into contact with law enforcement in Aberdeen-Hoquiam-Cosmopolis.

2. Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (Lead Agency) with Port Townsend PD

The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) has been awarded funding to continue to embed one mental health professional ("Navigator") into their patrol division. The JCSO Navigator will continue to partner alongside the Port Townsend Police Department (PTPD) Navigator, fulfilling several roles that include, but are not limited to, responding in-person to calls for service with deputies to address behavioral health related issues and assist with de-escalation; when appropriate, recommend diversion alternatives to arrest; provide appropriate referrals to community members seeking services; and conducting outreach to high-risk or vulnerable populations (i.e., individuals experiencing homelessness, severely and chronically mentally ill, older adults).

3. Kitsap County Sheriff's Office (Lead Agency) with Port Orchard PD

The Kitsap County Sheriff's Office and the Port Orchard Police Department have collaborated to establish a mental health field response capability that utilizes mental health professionals (DCRs) to professionally, humanely, and safely respond to crises involving persons with behavioral health issues, with treatment, diversion, and reduced incarceration time as primary goals.

The funding will add and additional DCR to the program. Together with the DCR's direct line of clinical responsibility to the Kitsap Mental Health Services, the Crisis Response Team has proven of great value, especially well situated to link participants to acute crisis services, including assessment for detention, and provision of involuntary evaluation and treatment facility services (KMHS Bremerton Campus) if indicated; to short-term 24/7 services such as KMHS managed 5-day crisis triage center, detox, shelter, KMHS managed 30 day mental health or KMHS and Kitsap County substance use treatment facilities; and to possible rapid engagement and outpatient treatment services needed for stabilization of mental health and behavioral health concerns.

Funding allocated for:

- Two Designated Crisis Responders
- One Part Time Designated Crisis Responder Supervisor

4. Longview Police Department (Lead Agency) with Kelso PD, Kalama PD, Woodland PD, Castle Rock PD, Cowlitz SO

The Longview Police Department, in conjunction with all of the law enforcement agencies in Cowlitz County, along with Columbia Wellness have been awarded funding to implement a coordinated Mental Health Field Response Team. The City of Longview dedicated funding through the city's general fund budget to establish a contract with Columbia Wellness for two mental health professionals to respond with Longview Police Officers to calls where individuals are in crisis. With this grant funding, two additional mental health professionals will work as part of a countywide approach to provide immediate triage and access to cognitive and behavioral health resources.

Funding allocated for:

- One Lead Mental Health Professional
- One Mental Health Professional

5. Marysville Police Department (Lead Agency) with Arlington PD, Lake Stevens PD, Tulalip Tribe PD

The Marysville Police Department, in conjunction with the Arlington Police Department, Lake Stevens Police Department, and Compass Health led the initial six- month grant funding to successfully implement two embedded Mental Health Field Response Teams (MHFRT). The Tulalip Tribe Police Department is joining this partnership. The funding awarded in this grant will allow the agencies to continue, as well as expand its MHFRT.

The formation of MHFRT is a direct regional response to alleviate the strains and demands imposed upon local law enforcement agencies. Additionally, MHFRTs provide an immediate vehicle for directly connecting mental health clients with an MHP, delivering instant triage and access to Snohomish County Human Service's full spectrum of cognitive and behavioral health resources. Subsequent responses will provide a safer environment for mental health clients experiencing a crisis, thanks to the specialized training of an on-site MHP. Having real-time access to Snohomish County Human Service resources provides emergency responders with an opportunity for diversion and a method for employing incarceration alternatives, which are otherwise unavailable to law enforcement. Some of these alternatives may include but are not limited to immediate access to outpatient mental health services, respite care, primary care clinics, and other similar support services.

Funding allocated for:

• Three Mental Health Professionals

6. Port Angeles Police Department (Lead Agency) with Clallam SO, Sequim PD

The Port Angeles Police Department (PAPD) will continue to partner with the Clallam County Sheriff's Office, Sequim Police Department and the Olympic Peninsula Community Clinic (OPCC) to provide their coordinated response program called "ReDiscovery" that addresses the needs of persons with behavior health issues. PAPD encounters persons multiple times a day who need services that often includes both short- and long-term mental health services. PAPD no longer lost track of the person or lost the opportunity to get them into services with an embedded social worker.

The ReDiscovery program partnership between PAPD and OPCC had already existed. The funds from the MHFRT grant and a grant from Clallam County allowed PAPD to improve its response. The ReDiscovery objective is to expand resources available to the program in the form of additional trained staff that coordinates outreach efforts between PAPD, OPCC, the Port Angeles Fire Department, the Clallam County Sheriff's Office and the Sequim Police Department.

Funding allocated for:

• Two Mental Health Professionals

7. Poulsbo Police Department (Lead Agency) with Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe PD

The Poulsbo Police Department and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe have been awarded funding that will continue the City of Poulsbo's field response/police navigator program and add a peer to the program to serve as a resource to officers at the Poulsbo Police Department, Port Gamble S'Klallam Police Department, and other police agencies in the North Kitsap area. Funds will be used to support a **full-time mental health professional** ("Navigator") employed by the Poulsbo police department and a **part time peer** ("Success Coach") employed by the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe.

The field response program will expand the scope of police-led behavioral health response in North Kitsap and help law enforcement comply with the new Blake Response Bill (SB 5476) mandating police diversion efforts. It is also an opportunity for Poulsbo Police to work closely with a neighboring Tribe to serve the needs of residents across jurisdictions. Expanding this program to include the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe will add considerable value to their efforts. The addition of a Success Coach to the field response program will add a peer to their team and, for the first time, make after-hours referral services available.

Funding allocated for:

- One Mental Health Professional
- One Part Time Peer Supervisor
- One Peer (Success Coach)

8. Skagit County Sheriff's Office (Lead Agency) with Burlington PD, Sedro Woolley PD

Skagit County Sheriff's Office, Burlington Police Department, and Sedro Woolley Police Department, in conjunction with Compass Health were awarded funding that will support an expansion to a regional model to include the identified law enforcement partnership agencies. This funding will allow the continuation of two mental health clinicians and will for identified personnel to be assigned to the City jurisdictions to increase access and response times.

The Integrated Model of Police and Crisis Teams (IMPACT) program is an imbedded partnership between Compass Health and identified law enforcement jurisdictions. The program has been widely successful and well received both within the law enforcement agencies and by the community served. IMPACT is structured as a true partnership between licensed mental health clinicians and our law enforcement partners. Partner law enforcement agencies will identify, through an internal process, the sworn law enforcement officer(s) dedicated to the IMPACT program. Each officer is partnered with a licensed mental health clinician and respond jointly in a true imbedded model of response.

Funding allocated for:

Two Mental Health Professionals

9. Wenatchee Police Department (Lead Agency) with Chelan SO, Douglas SO, East Wenatchee PD

Beginning in 2015, Wenatchee Police Department partnered with Catholic Family and Child Services, now known as Catholic Charities Serving Central Washington, to provide crisis response services. Catholic Charities

remains the contracted service provider for Crisis and Mental Health services for Chelan and Douglas Counties. The initial focus was on high-volume contacts and diverting them from being a draw on public safety and law enforcement and moving them into behavioral health services. The program grew from a single staff member from Catholic Charities responding to calls at the request of Officers in the field with Wenatchee Police Department to a small staff of Designated Crisis Responders (DCRs) and Designated Mental Health Professionals (DMHPs) responding to calls in the field for service for our department and those of our coapplicants, Chelan County Sheriff's Office, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, and East Wenatchee Police Department.

In the regular operating state, the Crisis Response staff are on duty from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Monday, 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday through Friday, and for eight hours on Saturday with scheduling driven by needs in the field. The evening and Saturday hours are provided for through "stipend shifts" by DCR staff. Stipend shifts continue to be the primary model based on its efficacy.

The funding awarded to Wenatchee Police will allow its current crisis response staffing model of a Diversion Trueblood Manager, (2) MHP/DCR, and (3) Case Manager to continue. They provide roughly forty hours of coverage per week under their regular contract and thirty-six hours of additional coverage under the MHFRT grant program with field response services in addition to other Mental Health Crisis services in our area. The current program provides rapid response, particularly in those areas close to the cities of Wenatchee and East Wenatchee.

Funding allocated for:

Designated Crisis Responder "Stipends"

Status of Grant Contracts

As of the date of this report, all but a few of the grantee agencies have completed the contract process with WASPC and have begun implementation of their grant programs for FY 21-22.

Early Grant Reporting

Anecdotally, grant agencies report their officers/deputies have an increased awareness and knowledge of the community resources available and an increased empathy for those in crisis. For the clients served in the program, the Mental Health Professionals report a positive change in the perception toward law enforcement. A shift to a non-punitive approach has increased the trust and cooperation of clients. Clients report they are surprised by the investment and outreach conducted. One client stated to the officer and MHP, "I can't believe you are investing in us in this way and being proactive." This client was thankful for the after-hours response to his crisis.

Lessons Learned

WASPC continues to hear from of its members that the biggest challenge they continue to face to implement co-responder programs is the ability to hire or maintain employment with a mental health professional or to contract with a service provider for the services of a mental health provider. This is especially apparent in the rural areas of our state. There are not enough trained and experienced mental health professionals to meet the demands and needs of behavioral health providers in the state. This will continue to be a challenge for the foreseeable future.

Additionally, since this program was developed and funded in the second year of the state's biennium, it presented challenges due to the short time frame for implementation and the short funding period. Many

WASPC members were very interested in the program, but these challenges were barriers to their ability to apply this time. Our members expressed their desire for the legislature to both continue funding for the current grantees and further expand the fiscal support for new programs in the 2022 legislative session.

Recommendations

WASPC recommends that the legislature consider these recommendations to improve and strengthen the Mental Health Field Response Teams Program.

- Provide sustainable funds for the current grant programs. This will allow a more robust evaluation of the impacts of crisis response with embedded mental health professionals.
- Expand state funds for the program to include, but not limited to, those areas outlined in the *Trueblood Settlement Agreement*. WASPC is committed to expansion of funds up to \$10 million.
- Provide limited Public Records Act exemptions for the data entered into WASPC's data collection tool.
 WASPC is committed to report out aggregate data in our yearly reports to the Legislature, but there are some concerns of the additional burdens placed upon grant recipients and WASPC.

We look forward to working with the legislature and stakeholders to make necessary program modifications and expansions of the program.

Additional Information

Additional information concerning WASPC's grant program can be found at http://www.waspc.org/mental-health-field-response-teams-program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve D. Strachan, Executive Director John McGrath, Jail Services Liaison

Date: September 1, 2021