

CITY OF MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT www.madisonpolice.com COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Mental Health Liaison/Officer Programs

The Madison Police Department has a long-standing commitment to partner with mental health providers in order to improve services to those with mental illness. The Mental Health Liaison/ Officer Programs serve to further supplement our overall response with a specialized approach and provides added support to first-responding officers before, during and after any mental health crisis occurs.

Nationally Recognized Program

The Madison Police Department was selected by the Council of State Governments Justice Center in conjunction with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) as one of six national law enforcement/mental health learning sites, based on the strength of our training program and specialized response. As a national learning site, the Madison Police Department provides peer-topeer support to other law enforcement agencies interested in improving services to persons with mental illness. For more information, visit: www.consensusproject.org/learningsites.

In 2015, the Madison Police Department added 5 full-time officers to better serve individuals living with a mental illness. Mental Health Officers address both district-specific and citywide systems issues related to mental health. These officers work with consumers, advocates, family members, case managers, and mental health providers, to support people with mental illness in the community and divert them from the criminal justice system whenever possible. In their full time capacity, Mental Health Officers take the work of our part-time volunteer Mental Health Liaisons a step further to more consistently support patrol



Learning Sites: Los Angeles PD Salt Lake City PD Houston PD

Madison PD Portland PD Univ. of Florida PD



Mental Health Liaison Officer, Grant Humerickhouse (right) serves as an actor in a training scenario.





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officers, work with partner agencies, attend community meetings, conduct home visits, create individual coordinated response plans, assist in developing and implementing training/educational initiatives, and conduct follow-up in an effort to prevent mental health crises from emerging.

Policing in Partnership with our Community

Interagency collaboration is a vital part of the Madison Police Department Mental Health Liaison Program. Some of the agencies with whom we partner include:

- NAMI Dane County
- Journey Mental Health Center
- Community Treatment Alternatives
- PACT (Program of Assertive Community Treatment)
- Meriter Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, UW Hospital, Veterans Hospital
- United Way of Dane County
- Tellurian



The Mental Health Liaison Program consists of selected volunteer officers who serve as liaisons representing each of our 5 districts and 5 full-time Mental Health Officers. The Program Coordinator and the various officers work collaboratively with mental health providers, advocates, and consumers to provide individual response plans and follow-up, address system issues/concerns, share information internally and externally as appropriate, and if possible respond to mental health calls for service when they arise.

For more information about Madison Police Department's Mental Health Liaison/Officer Programs, please contact the Program Coordinator, Capt. James Wheeler at jwheeler@cityofmadison.com.

City of Madison, Wisconsin

