

The Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) News

The Behavioral Health Response Teams and the Service Coordination Team continue to meet with clients and work in tandem to ensure the coordination of services. The relationships between officers, clinicians, and the Portland community have been invaluable in meeting the needs of vulnerable populations in our city. With our community partners who share similar goals, we continually strive to coordinate multidisciplinary services for individuals to obtain the assistance they need.

The BHU has been busy facilitating numerous crisis intervention and de-escalation trainings for our partners in the past months.

BHU Facilitates Project Respond Training

The Police Bureau has a strong and long-standing relationship with Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare's Project Respond. BHU officers and sergeants continually work to maintain a positive and successful relationship with Cascadia. As the Behavioral Health Unit Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator, Officer Bryson has been instrumental in ensuring this relationship continues and thrives.



In the Winter of 2021/2022 BHU and Project Respond collaborated to create a curriculum for a class to be provided to all Project Respond clinicians. The course provided an opportunity for clinicians to build skills related to identifying and responding to dangerous situations, considerations for when police should be requested, and how to best work with officers. In February, Officer Bryson led instruction of the course that included classroom and scenario learning at the PPB Training Complex. The course built a stronger foundation for collaboration between Bureau members and Project Respond. Members of BHU and Officer



Bryson taught a total of four training sessions and provided instruction for approximately 30 Project Respond clinicians.

In addition to training Project Respond clinicians, BHU assisted in training for the newly formed PF&R Portland Street Response (PSR). BHU members created a curriculum and developed a safety training in October 2021. As part of the training, BHU presented information about responding to people in mental health crisis and important safety considerations.

A New Resource in the Crisis Response System

The BHU is excited that the Portland community has a new resource within the crisis response system which can assist individuals in crisis and with the coordination of their care. Portland Street Response (PSR) will be incrementally rolling out an increase in teams within the city of Portland throughout the course of 2022. In addition to the increase in teams, the shifts covered will be expanded as well. PSR and PPB have a positive and productive partnership with one another and look forward to fostering this relationship as the program grows.

PSR offers mobile crisis response for people experiencing homelessness and/or low-acuity behavioral health crisis. Their services are confidential, voluntary, and free of charge. PSR is staffed with paramedics, licensed mental health crisis workers, case managers, and peer support specialists. PSR are dispatched as unarmed, trauma-informed first responders for non-life-threatening (but crisis-related) scenarios such as behavioral health crises and welfare check calls.

At its inception, PSR only responded to calls in East Precinct's Lents Neighborhood. PSR has now expanded to provide service throughout the City of Portland.

PSR does not have access to law enforcement radio nets. This policy is in place to maintain criminal justice information (CJI) compliance. PSR radio requests for police assistance will go through BOEC.

Currently, PSR will be dispatched when a caller reports:

- A person who is possibly experiencing a mental health crisis; intoxicated and/or drug affected. This person is *either* outside or inside of a publicly accessible space such as a business, store, public lobby, etc.
- A person who is outside and down, not checked.
- A person who is outside and yelling.

A person who needs a referral for services, but does not have access to a phone line.

The call meets the previous criteria – AND

- There are no weapons seen.
- The person is **not** in traffic/not obstructing traffic.
- The person is not violent towards others (physically combative, threatening violence, assaulting).
- The person is not suicidal.
- The person is not inside of a private residence.

Any officer who is dispatched to a call for service or observes a situation that fits the above criteria may request PSR. Officers' requests for PSR should route through BOEC. BOEC will request/dispatch an available PSR team.



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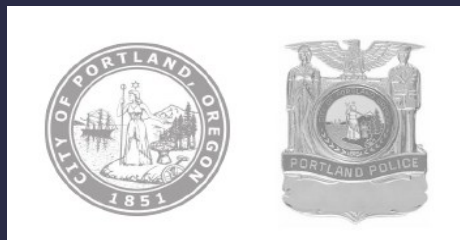
Portland Police Bureau

BHU Welcomes Lieutenant Christopher Burley

On February 3rd Lieutenant Christopher Burley joined the Behavioral Health Unit as the new BHU Lieutenant, replacing Lieutenant Casey Hettman. Chris joined the Bureau in August of 2005 and worked multiple assignments, including time as an officer in what at the time was called the Mobile Crisis Unit (MCU) and today is the Behavioral Health Unit (BHU). Chris has also been assigned to East and North Precincts, the Tactical Operations Division/ Specialized Resources Division and the Chief's Office as the Public Information Officer.



Most recently Chris was the team leader for the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT). Chris was a board member for Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare and currently serves on the board of directors for the National Alliance on Mental Illness – Multnomah. Chris looks forward to being a member of an interdisciplinary unit serving some of the most vulnerable community members in Portland. He welcomes input from frontline PPB members to learn ways to better serve those who have police contact because of their mental health or addiction.



The Behavioral Health Unit has its own website with many helpful tools for the community. The list to the right is just a small example of the community services that are available for those in need.

Please visit us at:
[www. Portlandoregon.gov/
police/62135](http://www.Portlandoregon.gov/police/62135)
for more information on the Behavioral Health Unit and the latest news.

Emergency Services: 911
Non-Emergency Services: (503) 823-3333

Crisis Lines (24-hours)

Multnomah County Behavioral Health Call Center (503) 988-4888

Lines for Life Suicide Hotline: (800) 273-8255

Spanish line: (888) 628-9454

Oregon Youth Line: (877) 968-8491

Crisis Lines (not 24-hours)

David Romprey Warm Line: (800) 698-2392

Dove Lewis Portland Area Canine Therapy Teams (PACTT)

Dove Lewis Portland Area Canine Therapy Teams (PACTT) provide animal assisted therapy by bringing volunteer teams to the community. PACTT visits the Behavioral Health Unit on a weekly basis. The dogs and their committed handlers foster favorable mental health for the unit.

Positive interactions with the dogs help to relieve stress.

Research shows that animals in the workplace often lead to more productive coworker interactions, increased trust levels between colleagues, and more effective collaboration.

The Unit always looks forward to the PACTT visits. It is one of the most enjoyable ways to provide some respite from the days stresses. There is a good amount of catch played with one another and plenty of treats given out! The BHU feels very fortunate and grateful to have Dove Lewis provide the PACTT service. You may find more information on this service at <https://www.dovelewis.org/community/portland-area-canine-therapy-teams>

