

## The Behavioral Health Unit (BHU) News

As 2022 came to an end the BHU was thrilled to officially welcome five city employed clinicians - newly created positions within the Bureau - and one new officer to the unit. (We will share more about the new city employed clinician positions in the coming weeks.) In the coming month, the BHU will soon have five Behavioral Health Response Teams (BHRT), each comprised of an officer and clinician. In addition, the Service Coordination Team (SCT) was proud to recognize many of the participants in their programs for their graduation and years of sobriety.

## **Service Coordination Team (SCT)**

Multiple graduates of SCT celebrated long-term recovery this quarter. The graduates continue to live and share their courage, strength and hope in recovery. We are very proud of their hard work and dedication to not only changing their lives, but giving back to the community!

SCT is a crime reduction program for the City of Portland, managed by the Portland Police Bureau. SCT is responsible of coordinating law enforcement, criminal justice, supportive housing and treatment resources for individuals who are chronically arrested in order to improve public safety, reinforce community livability, and increase quality of life by breaking the cycle of addiction and crime. In partnership with Central City Concern Housing Rapid Response program, the team offers access to treatment, housing, and wrap-around services.

### SCT Graduates Celebrating Sober Years

Alton H. 10 years, Barron W. 13 years, Terry W. 10 years, Dennis M. 10 years,  
Donnie T. 7 years



## Supportive Transitions and Stabilization Program (STS)

Congratulations to several individuals who participated in the STS program, engaged in case management and treatment services. They not only graduated the program, but continue to engage with staff and peers to continue their path of recovery. We are very proud of the hard work and dedication in order to obtain stability, employment and connection with family and the community!

In collaboration with BHU, SCT and the Central City Concern Supportive Transitions and Stabilization/STS program offers a direct, service connected housing for individuals assigned to the Behavioral Health Response Team/BHRT. The goal is to decrease police contact by assertively addressing the needs of individuals struggling with behavioral health.



Alex K. & STS Staff



Douglas M., Zach F. & STS Staff

## BHUAC Community Engagement Meeting

The Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee (BHUAC) is made up of industry leaders and community members with lived experience which are dedicated to the integrity, improvement and success of the BHU. Some of the organizations which contribute include, The Mental Health and Addictions Association of Oregon (MHA AO), Cascadia Healthcare, Unity Center for Behavioral Health, Multnomah County Mental Health and Addiction Services, CARE Oregon, Behavioral Health Resource Center (BHRC), and the Metropolitan Public Defender's Office. The BHUAC hosts a quarterly community meeting to review topics that were discussed from the past quarter at the monthly BHUAC meetings.

The BHUAC Community Engagement Meetings for the committee work done during 2023 are planned for:

- April 06, 2023 6:00-7:00pm
- July 06, 2023 6:00-7:00pm
- October 05, 2023 6:00-7:00pm
- January 04, 2024 6:00-7:00pm



October 2022 BHUAC Community Engagement Meeting

Examples of previous topics of discussion include, review of the 2022 ECIT In-Service Threat Mitigation and Assessment Lesson Plan, Directives approval process, and the Bureau of Emergency Management Communications (BOEC) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) review.

## BHU Welcomes New Clinicians

Sarah Scafani previously worked with PPB's BHU from August 2018-2021. Due to PPB's internal restructuring in 2020, Sarah left briefly to work for the Gresham Police Department's BHU in the same capacity as her position as a BHRT with PPB's BHU. Sarah also serves as a mental health professional with PPB's Crisis Negotiation Team.

Prior to her BHU assignment, she was a mental health crisis clinician with Cascadia Healthcare's Project Respond for two years. Before joining Project Respond, Sarah studied at UCLA. She believes her time with Project Respond gave her the opportunity to get to know the community she is serving. She has experience in crisis intervention and navigating appropriate interventions for individuals experiencing mental health crises.



BHU Clinician Sarah Scafani

Sarah believes that BHU has an integral role in the community and is excited to serve the community now as a city employee. For some individuals struggling with mental illness who have contact with the police, it is highly valuable to have an officer/clinician team to work on developing relationships with those individuals in order to assist them in getting connected to services.

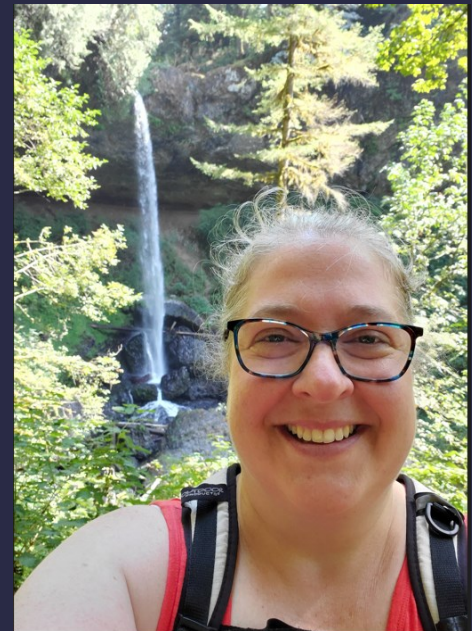
Sarah's team focuses on persons with mental illness who experience homelessness or are unsheltered in the City of Portland. Sarah states: "Our goal is to get them connected to permanent housing and other services to help those individuals maintain stability in the community and thrive."

## BHU Welcomes New Clinicians (cont.)

Cindy has worked with the Portland Police Bureau's Behavioral Health Unit since its inception in 2013. Before the Behavioral Health Unit was created, there was a smaller team called the Mobile Crisis Unit. It started in 2010 and was made up of one officer/clinician team, working mainly in Central Precinct. Cindy split the clinician position the first year and then has been doing the job full time since then. She says that it has been an honor to see and be part of the changes within the Bureau regarding response to those in mental health crisis.

Cindy enjoys the parts of her job where she gets to interact with the community. She also strives to provide support to those who are often marginalized and have difficulty accessing the limited services in our community. Cindy is excited about the possibilities that exist with clinicians being hired by the Police Bureau. She looks forward to helping build the unit and explore future opportunities for improvement and growth.

In her free time, Cindy likes to spend time with her dogs and catch up on the newest streaming TV shows.



BHU Clinician Cindy Hackett

## BHU Welcomes New Clinicians (cont.)

We would like to introduce you to one of our newer clinicians; Jamie Williams. Jamie previously worked with the Behavioral Health Unit from February 2018 to October 2020.

Prior to working with the BHU she worked with Project Respond for about four years as a mental health crisis clinician. Jamie's other job history includes working at a residential treatment center and as a behavioral health provider at a pediatric clinic. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and is also a Certified Alcohol Drug Counselor I.

Jamie sees BHU as having an integral role in the community's current system of care.

The partnership between a mental health clinician and law enforcement officer allows for shared knowledge, community coordination and ideally creates better options to meet people's individualized needs. "While working with the BHU I hope to provide needed support to both the community and the Police Bureau. I hope to focus on connecting folks to resources that will meet their needs and help to provide ongoing stabilization."

Jamie stated, "While not at work I enjoy spending time with my family and friends."



BHU Clinician Jamie Williams

## BHU Welcomes New Officer

On October 27, 2022 Officer Rich Bailey joined the Behavioral Health Unit as a new Behavioral Response Team Officer. Rich's addition brings BHU back to having five officers to fill the five Behavioral Health Response Teams originally intended for the Unit. Rich joined the Police Bureau in August of 2015. He has previously worked as a patrol officer at Central Precinct as well as in East Precinct. Rich is a member of the Crisis Negotiation Team.

Prior to his career with PPB, Rich was an Infantry Officer in the US Army and stationed in northern New York. He is a current volunteer with the Crisis Text Line where volunteers answer texts from people in crisis. In his free time, Rich enjoys participating in grappling sports and spending time with his family.

Rich is grateful to be part of the BHU team and grateful to be afforded some of the additional resources available to work to find solutions for those navigating mental illness. Furthermore, he is hopeful that some of those solutions will also help ease some of the burden on the currently over-stretched patrol.

