

JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATION PROGRAM



Project Context

National statistics demonstrate that individuals with mental illnesses are as much as six times more likely to become incarcerated than are citizens without mental illness, with one in four jail inmates meeting criteria for serious psychological distress (Bronson & Berzofsky, 2017). In a recent study, research found that as much as 23.4% of the Gresham Police Department (GPD) patrol resources are spent on calls for service involving persons with a mental illness (Henning, Steward, Wuschke, & Manson, 2019). GPD needs to be prepared to provide the best service possible in those situations, which involves increased efforts to divert individuals with mental illness away from the criminal justice system.



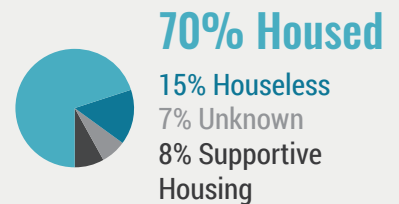
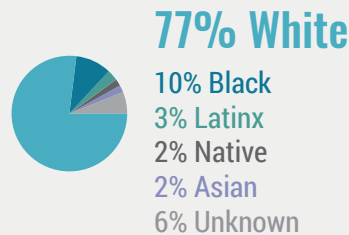
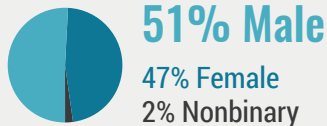
Project Goals

- ◆ Reduce the number of jail stays experienced by Gresham residents with severe mental illnesses
- ◆ Provide follow-up visits for Gresham residents with severe mental illness who had prior police contact

Established in 2017, Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare and the Gresham Police Department have partnered to create the Gresham Service Coordination Team (GSCT). The goal of the GSCT is to provide an enhanced level of service and reduce the criminalization of individuals with mental illness. The GSCT accomplishes this goal by pairing mental health clinicians with police officers to co-respond to 911 calls that involve a mental health concern. Furthermore, the GSCT provides follow-up service coordination support to divert individuals with mental health concerns away from the criminal justice system and toward community organizations.

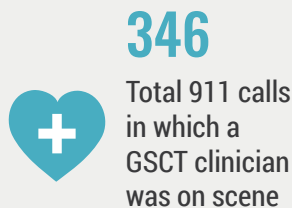
Who is being served?

Data below were documented during the first year that the GSCT went into operation (June 2019 to March 2020)



Outcomes Summary

Data below were documented during the first year that the GSCT went into operation (June 2019 to March 2020)



- ◆ The GSCT most frequently coordinated directly with clients, family members, mental health providers.
- ◆ The GSCT most frequently provided clients with information related to mental health and housing services in the Gresham area.
- ◆ The GSCT also provided clients with food boxes, rides to appointments, phone access, and home goods.



When a mental health clinician was on scene, clients were the least likely to go to jail and the most likely to be diverted to community care resources.

The GSCT clinicians were more effective at diverting individuals from jail than were officers trained in crisis intervention.