

Police Social Work Program

Program Overview

The purpose of the Police Social Work (PSW) program is to serve as a bridge between social services and the police department, helping people to navigate the social service system. HCRS Police Liaisons respond to the unique needs of the community; they support, monitor, assess, and provide follow up to individuals with mental health and/or substance abuse issues in partnership with law enforcement.

This program is designed to interrupt the cycle of serious family, personal and criminal problems. The staff provide de-escalation, establish rapport, assess the needs identified by the individual or families, make the appropriate referrals, and provide follow up to those served by the program. The program is proactive by reaching individuals at an earlier stage, thereby minimizing risk and increasing options for therapeutic interventions and positive behavior change. Staff work closely with the police department and other community providers and provide community-based outreach to those in need.

HCRS' Police Social Work Program was originally created over 17 years ago in collaboration with the Bellows Falls Police Department. The program, which has received numerous awards and been modeled after, has since expanded to include the Brattleboro, Springfield, Windsor, and Hartford Police Departments as well as the Vermont State Police Barracks in Westminster. We are currently working to expand the program to the Dover and Wilmington Police Departments as well as the Windham County Sheriff's Office.



Christine Bullard, HCRS Police Liaison for the Vermont State Police Barracks in Westminster, is awarded the Frank Silfies Team Two Award

Program Impact Past Year

577 PSW Interventions
189 Children & Families Impacted
888 Adults Impacted
24 Homeless Supported
Hundreds of Thousands \$\$ Saved

“I recall feeling heard and validated in what I was experiencing in that moment...”

-PSW Client

PSW Activities

- Crisis Intervention
- Community Support
- Domestic Violence Support
- Community Overdose Response
- DCF Support and Truancy
- Internal and Community Debriefing
- Connection to Resources
- Death Notification
- Many Others as Needed