Jail Diversion Program

The Jail Diversion Program (JDP) aims to help people in mental health crisis get the assistance they need, and not direct them unnecessarily into the Criminal Justice System. The Clinician rides with police officers in cruisers and responds directly to calls. They will help evaluate and make recommendations for further care and follow up. This shortens the time on scene for officers, and ultimately leads to a better outcome for those involved.

The JDP clinician can assist individuals and families who are seeking resources to help themselves or a loved one get care.

For more information on the Advocates Co-Response Model, please visit www.jaildiversion.org.

To reach our JDP Clinician & Supervisor, Sheena Mahoney, LICSW, you can call dispatch, or reach her by email at SMahoney@advocates.org.

To reach our JDP Clinician, Cara Caissie, MS MFT, you can call dispatch, or reach her by email at CaCaissie@advocates.org.
Marlborough Diversion Program
2019 Annual Report

The Marlborough Jail Diversion Program (JDP) was launched in 2008 and pairs specially trained crisis clinicians from Advocates Inc, with police officers at the Marlborough Police Department. These embedded clinicians respond to calls for service and 911 calls with patrol officers; providing immediate on-scene de-escalation, assessment and referrals for individuals in crisis. The primary goal of the Marlborough JDP is to re-direct individuals committing non-violent offences, out of the criminal justice system and into more appropriate community based behavioral health services. When a JDP clinician is not on duty, the Advocates Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) team supports the JDP clinician to ensure timely access for the participating police agencies 24/7.

JDP Interventions 2019

On-scene crisis interventions are facilitated through the dual response of police and clinician to calls for service involving individuals in crisis. Chart 1 represents the 413 individuals referred to the Marlborough Jail Diversion Program clinician(s) by Marlborough police officers in 2019.

Chart 1: Marlborough Co-Response Interventions 2019
**Diversions from Arrest 2019**

The primary goal of the Marlborough Jail Diversion Program is to divert low-level offenders away from the criminal justice system and into more appropriate, community-based behavioral health treatment. During 2019, a total of thirty-seven (37) individuals with behavioral health conditions were diverted from arrest by Marlborough police officers and into treatment facilitated by JDP clinicians. The average percentage of those eligible for arrest diversion who were diverted is 82%. Chart 2 represents the percentage of diversions from arrest by month.

**Chart 2: Marlborough JDP Arrest Diversions 2019**

In addition to the benefit of diverting individuals in crisis from arrest, these diversions represent an estimated cost savings of $93,240* to the criminal justice system ($2,520 per arrest event).

**Diversions from the Emergency Department 2019**

A secondary goal of the Marlborough Jail Diversion Program is to decrease the frequency of individuals with behavioral health conditions being referred to the hospital emergency department (ED) for psychiatric assessment by Marlborough police officers. During 2019, one hundred
twenty-six (126) individuals were diverted from unnecessary hospital admissions due the presence of a JDP clinician on scene; to facilitate assessment treatment recommendations. Chart 3 represents the monthly hospital ED diversions facilitated by the Marlborough JDP team.

Chart 3: Marlborough Emergency Department Diversions 2019

In addition to the benefits of receiving care outside of the hospital, these emergency department diversions represent estimated health care cost savings of $504,000* ($4,000 per ED diversion). Combined, estimated cost savings due to arrest and emergency department diversion activity equals $597,240*. Thank you for another year of partnership!

Report respectfully submitted by,

Adriana Tarantino
Training & Research Coordinator, Jail Diversion Program

*Formula cited in “Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Report on Pre-Arrest Jail Diversion Programs”, presented by Dr. Deborah Pinals, Assistant Commissioner for Forensic Services, Massachusetts State House, October 6th, 2009.