Trauma-Informed Law Enforcement Responses

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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Homeless Outreach Team

Trauma-Informed Law Enforcement Responses
Joan Gillece, Ph.D.

Moderator

Project Director, SAMHSA’s National Center for Trauma-Informed Care (NCTIC)

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
Trauma-Informed Law Enforcement Responses

• Sergeant Jo Anne Wallace and Detective Verlillian Githara
• Question and Answer
• Closing
Sergeant Jo Anne Wallace
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Detective Verlillian Githara
Officer - Homeless Outreach Team
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Mission Statement

To improve the quality of life for all Baltimoreans by combining police and community resources in an effort to reduce the number of people who are homeless and living on the street in Baltimore City.
This team of Baltimore City police officers and various city agencies and other partners engage in street outreach directly to the homeless community.
The goal of the outreach is to reduce the number of homeless people living on the street by helping them conquer their personal obstacles and barriers.
This team is RELATIONSHIP focused and has developed an excellent and personal working relationship with individuals who are homeless, various city agencies, and other providers throughout the city.
How can the H.O.T. help?

- The team works to build RELATIONSHIPS with those who are living on the streets.
- These relationships allow the team a personal insight into the individual’s/families’ reason(s) for being homeless.
- The team then works with various partners and agencies to remove the barriers and help the homeless re-integrate into society.
- We walk with the individual throughout the entire process through the system.
- We refer to it as “From Homeless to H.O.P.E.” (Happy, Optimistic, Powerful, & Empowered).
Identification provided

Identification Letters

Maryland ID card

Birth Certificates
Camps
Success story

The H.O.T. came in contact with Miracle who was living in the encampment on President St. outside of the headquarters building. Miracle was in distress and homeless. Miracle was transported to the hospital for an emergency petition due to her distress. After her discharge we followed Miracle’s progress and she was reunited with her family and she is now living in Philadelphia.
Success story

The Homeless Outreach Team encountered Brittany at the Guilford Ave. encampment. She was living from tent to tent and she was using IV heroin. After many visits and building a relationship with her, we contacted her grandmother in Cecil County. She was elated and stated she had been looking for Brittany for six months. Brittany finally agreed to inpatient rehab and her grandmother drove to Baltimore Central District where the H.O.T. was with Brittany. There was a joyous family reunification, and she was admitted the same day to rehab in Cecil Co., and she is doing well.
### H.O.T. estimated savings

| **Societal cost for a person who is homeless** | **$40,051** |
| **Cost of serving and housing a person who is homeless** | **$25,529** |
| **Difference** | **$14,522** |
| **Individuals housed by H.O.T. in 2015** | **301** |
| **Estimated savings** | **$4,371,122** |
References


DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS
Type in the chat box and tell us:

What is one thing that you will put into practice after this webinar?
What is one thing you learned today that surprised you?
Contact Information

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SAMHSA’s mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America’s communities.

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