

Documentation for CRU Evidence Informed Proposed Initiatives

Co-response Units is an evidence-informed practices to divert individuals experiencing mental health or co-occurring mental health and substance use crises from arrest and into appropriate treatment. A brief overview of supporting research for each program is discussed below.

Police Co-Response Units

Co-response units that pair behavioral health personnel with law enforcement also represent an evidence-informed approach to diversion, but one that can allow for more proactive engagement with individuals with MHDs and SUDs.¹ The Rockingham-Harrisonburg Co-Response Unit (CRU) combines a clinician from Harrisonburg-Rockingham Community Services Board (HRCSB) with a law enforcement officer from the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office. In addition to providing backup to officers in the field when they experience someone in crisis, the CRU conducts wellness checks and provides follow-up to individuals with MHDs and MHSUDs who have had a police officer encounter or are released from the CITAC. Their services are aimed at connecting individuals to treatment in the least restrictive environment and preventing repeat crises.

Research on police mental health co-response has shown that CRUs can divert individuals with MHDs and MHSUDs from incarceration and hospitalization and to link them with appropriate treatment.² Moreover, CRUs conducting proactive follow-up and wellness checks are better able to ensure that individuals are engaging in referrals to mental health and substance use services.³ A 2021 review of research evidence by the Center for Police Research and Policy concluded that co-response programs also promote cost-effectiveness in both the health care and criminal justice systems by reducing unnecessary emergency department visits and psychiatric hospitalization and increasing jail diversion.⁴

¹ Melissa S., Morabito and Jenna Savage. "Examining proactive and responsive outcomes of a dedicated co-responder team." *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* 15, no. 3 (2021): 1802-1817.

² Katie Bailey, Evan M. Lowder, Eric Grommon, Staci Rising, and Bradley R. Ray. "Evaluation of a police-mental health co-response team relative to traditional police response in Indianapolis." *Psychiatric services* 73, no. 4 (2022): 366-373.

³ Tom Meehan, Janet Brack, Yolanda Mansfield, and Terry Stedman. "Do police-mental health co-responder programmes reduce emergency department presentations or simply delay the inevitable?." *Australasian Psychiatry* 27, no. 1 (2019): 18-20.

⁴ Center for Police Research and Policy. 2021. Assessing the Impact of Co-Responder Team Programs: A Review of Research. Academic Training to Inform Police Responses Best Practice Guide. University of Cincinnati. https://www.informedpoliceresponses.com/files/ugd/313296_4a364b2093ed4fb9be28dd6dd977816b.pdf

Ann Marie Ritchie

From: Demetrius Thomas <dthomas@csg.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:59 AM
To: Ann Marie Freeman; Kelly Royston
Cc: Ethan Kelly
Subject: Invitation: JMHCP Congressional Briefing

Importance: High

Good morning Anne and Kelly:

I am Demetrius Thomas, the Deputy Program Director for the JMHCP TTA.

I write to invite you to be a panelist on a congressional briefing.

On Fri., May 7th, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (CST), our Government Affairs will be hosting a congressional briefing to discuss the importance and impact of the JMHCP. It will be a 1-hour virtual briefing. CSG Justice Center staff will moderate. It will include remarks from two Hill members, and then the panel of three JMHCP sites. The panel will be structured as a Q&A. The briefing will be open to Hill staff, as well as the public. We will provide you with the questions ahead of time and schedule a prep session/tech walk through with you, so you can feel fully prepared.

I think this is a great opportunity to showcase all the wonderful work you are doing in Rockingham County, particularly with your multijurisdictional, multidisciplinary, cross collaboration approach to make an impact across several intercepts, including crisis response. In addition, it will give you the opportunity to discuss your gender-response work for women, as well as your unique work on data collection and program evaluation.

Please let me know if you are interested and have any follow up. I am happy to answer any questions.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best,
Demetrius

Message Sent From Outside of our Network

Congressional Briefing: Package of Information

Justice Briefing Live: Panelist Confirmation and Access Instructions

Thank you for agreeing to join us as a panelist for The CSG Justice Center's **How Three Communities Are Supporting Mental Health and Decreasing Justice System Involvement Through JMHCP** event on Friday May 7, at 2:30 p.m. EST. We're reaching out to share pertinent event details, which you'll find below.

Panelist Event Access:

To access the event space as a panelist, please use the following link: <https://csg-org.zoom.us/j/82902540369?pwd=THNwd2F5WFVDV1ZZQnZZTnNFOXgzUT09#success>. Please note that this link is for **participants only**, but general admission instructions are also included below which you are welcome to share. If you have any difficulties accessing the Zoom link, please contact Ben Oakley at (609) 647-1940.

Event Date and Time:

In order to make sure your audio and video are properly connected prior to kicking off the event, **we invite you to log on using the panelist link at 2:00 p.m. EST on Friday, May 7 (30 minutes before the event is set to begin)**. Please let us know if you're not able to join us early, and we will do our best to get you all set up as soon as you log on.

General Admission:

Others interested in attending the event are welcome to join by using the following link to view the livestream at www.csgjusticecenter.org/justice-briefing-live. The livestream is free and open to the public. People who pre-registered and requested event updates will receive an email with this link although anyone is welcome to join us at event time.

Social Media Engagement:

We will be encouraging attendees to engage on social media using [#justiceBriefingLive](https://twitter.com/justicebriefinglive) during the event. If you would like your Twitter handle to be displayed on the screen next to your name and title, please share that with us ahead of time.

Run-of-Show Outline (60 minutes):

Time	Content	Speaker	Production notes
2:30- 2:37	Event Intro	Dr. Ayesha	Welcome Introduces topic for today's event
2:37- 2:38	Congressional Intro	Dr. Ayesha	Introduces Rep. Emmer

2:38- 2:43	Pre-Recorded Remarks	Rep. Emmer, R- MN	Discusses their work on JMHCP
2:43- 2:44	Congressional Intro	DR. Ayesha	Introduces Rep. Scott
2:44- 2:49	Live Remarks	Rep. Scott, D-VA	Discusses their work on JMHCP
2:50	Panelist Intro	Dr. Ayesha	Introduces panelists
2:50- 3:22	Panelist Discussion	CSG Justice Center Board Member, three JMHCP grantees	Ayesha to moderate There will be a slide for each site that should be featured during the panelist's first answer. The order will be: 1. Douglas 2. Winona 3. Rockingham
3:22- 3:27	Audience Q&A	CSG Justice Center Board Member, three JMHCP grantees	Ayesha to moderate
3:27- 3:30	Closing Remarks	Dr. Ayesha	Mention survey and where to find recording

Panelist Introductions

- **Mike Brouwer, Criminal Justice Coordinator, Douglas County, Lawrence, KS**
- **Karin Sonneman, Winona County Attorney**
- **Kelly Royston, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and Rockingham Harrisonburg Joint Mental Health Collaboration Program Coordinator (RHJMHCP)**

Speaker and Panelist Headshots and Bios:

Share the event:

Join The CSG Justice Center for a Congressional Briefing showcasing three innovative programs supported by the **Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHC)** and how they are improving services for people with mental illnesses or substance use disorders. The event is free and open to the public.

Panelists include

- U.S. Representative Bobby Scott, D-VA-3
- U.S. Representative Tom Emmer, R-MN-6
- Karin Sonneman, Winona County Attorney, MN
- Kelly Royston, Crisis Intervention Team and Rockingham Harrisonburg Joint Mental Health Collaboration Program Coordinator
- Mike Brouwer, Criminal Justice Coordinator, Douglas County, KS
- Dr. Ayesha Delany-Brumsey, Director of Behavioral Health, The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center (*Facilitator*)

EVENT: How Three Communities Are Supporting Mental Health & Decreasing Justice System Involvement through JMHC

Date: Friday, May 7, 2021

Time: 2:30–3:30 p.m. ET

REGISTER NOW >

Royston To Present At Congressional Hill Briefing

By PETE DELEA Daily News-Record

May 7, 2021

During her 14-year career as a dispatcher with the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center, Kelly Royston answered countless calls from those suffering from mental illness.

In 2016, she left the dispatching job to lead the area's Crisis Intervention Team, which trains police, fire and medics to respond to those in a mental health crisis.

In October, with the help of a three-year, \$750,000 grant from the U.S. Bureau of Justice, Royston created a full-time Crisis Response Team. The team consists of a Rockingham County sheriff's deputy and a clinician from the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Community Services Board.

"If this program helps one person, it's worth it," Royston said. "That person now has a better quality of life."

Today, Royston plans on testifying virtually at a Congressional Hill briefing titled, "How Three Communities Are Supporting Mental Health and Decreasing Justice System Involvement Through Justice and Mental Health Collaborations."

To implement the program, Royston has been working with James Madison University assistant professor of political science, Amanda Teye, and Liliokanaio Peaslee, professor of political science.

Royston started the program about two years ago with a part-time team, but the grant funding allowed her to create a full-time team in October.

The team, often based on referrals from various law enforcement or other government agencies, responds to those in crisis.

"We'll find them and work with them," Royston said. "We help them get into the CSB system or the right resource they need."

She said the program is also reducing the amount of time patrol officers are on mental health calls.

Since the program went full-time, the team has assisted 220 people.

Frank Sottaceti, the criminal justice planner for Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, said it's significant that Royston and the Harrisonburg area are being recognized.

"One of the main areas of criminal justice reform and discussion is the response to people in mental health crises," he said. "Our area has tackled that problem. The [CRT] has treated hundreds of individuals who in the past would have been handled differently. We are able to handle those instances differently from diverting them from the criminal justice system to the mental health system."

Sheriff Bryan Hutcheson said he's proud that Royston, and the community, is getting the attention.

He said Royston has a passion to help those suffering from mental illness.

"She's done an outstanding job," Hutcheson said. "She's very motivated. She's been very focused on it."

The hearing will take place at 2:30 p.m. and can be viewed via livestream at csgjusticecenter.org/live

Contact Pete DeLea at 574-6267 or pdelea@dnronline.com. Follow Pete on Twitter [@pdelea_DNR](https://twitter.com/pdelea_DNR)