Unified Police Department
Mental Health Unit

Presented by Sergeant Jodie Sampson
Mission of the Mental Health Unit

The Unified Police Department Mental Health Unit incorporates a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with Unified Police officers with the mission to reduce the potential for violence during police contacts involving people suffering from mental illness, while simultaneously assessing and connecting individuals to the mental health services available to them.
Mental Health Unit Objective

Provide intervention, referral, or placement for a person with mental illness to facilitate the speedy return of field officers to other field duties; Endeavor to prevent unnecessary incarceration and/or hospitalization of persons with mental illness by directing individuals, based on medical necessity, to care in the least restrictive environment through a coordinated and comprehensive system-wide approach.
Mental Health Unit Personnel

- One full time Sgt.
- One full time Detective (60 case load)
- 7 Secondary Detectives (20-25 case load)
  - 1-2 in each Precinct dedicating 1-2 days per month with MHU
- One full time Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
  - JRI Grant through 2021
- One University of Utah Intern for Database Population
Mental Health Unit Calls For Service
November 13, 2017 to May 31, 2019

- Mental Health Calls: 3914
- Welfare Checks: 4069
- Attempted Suicides: 290

Total of 8273 in 18 month period
Total Follow-Up Cases To Date

Follow-ups cases handled by Mental Health Unit (MHU) from November 13, 2017- May 31, 2019 total

1043
Mental Health Unit Cases

- James
  Threatening Salt Lake County Employees

- Penny
  17 calls in 8 week period w/emergency responses by UFA and UPD
Mental Health Unit Cases

- Ms. S
  * State Hospital* Attempt to buy guns./Triad shooter’s sister

- Ricky
  71 responses in 3 months (100% UPD)*State Hospital* Escalation in violence/charges/Weapons
Mental Health Unit Cases

- Damion: 97 responses /charges in court (95% UPD)
- Nathan: 255 responses (valley wide)
- Stephanie: 232 responses (95% UPD)
- Jessica: 80 responses (95% UPD)
Each station in UFA has an average of 2 ‘frequent flyers’. To meet criteria for that, the person has to call 4-6 times a month. Their finance division has the cost broken down per response minus the equipment.

Preliminary saving the first year for UFA in Mental Health related calls since MHU was formed:

$750,000
The success and value of the Mental Health Unit not only shows in stats but in value that can not be measured.