



# Advocates Jail Diversion Program | *A Co-Responder Model*

## CULTURE CHANGE

**O**n-going data collection and analysis have demonstrated the successes of Advocates' co-responder model, not just for community members with mental health needs but also for the culture of police departments. Police attitudinal and satisfaction research conducted in Advocates' Jail Diversion Programs (JDP) in 2010 and 2016 has demonstrated to a statistically significant degree that the presence of the JDP program has decreased police officer authoritarianism and increased police officer confidence on calls for service involving individuals in crisis.

Officers cite the immediacy of the response, their familiarity with the clinicians, and the clinicians' ability to de-escalate situations as the most important components of the JDP model.

**93%**  
of JDP Police Officers  
found the clinician  
helpful

**91%**  
of JDP Police Officers  
found the services  
helpful



**It is so helpful to have immediate access to social workers as sometimes we're tied up at that call for an extended period of time, and they're the trained professionals and resolve it much quicker than me alone."**

MARLBOROUGH POLICE OFFICER

### *Effect of the ASHH JDP Program on Police Officer Attitudes toward the Mentally Ill*

A before and after questionnaire was administered during police roll calls in Ashland, Sherborn, Holliston, and Hopkinton to measure the effects of a pre-arrest, co-responder clinician Jail Diversion Program.

The table below displays each domain of the Community Attitudes Towards the Mentally Ill (CAMI) and Dorothy Cotton's research on police attitudes towards the mentally ill scales. The CAMI scale is a five-point Likert scale measuring each theme by combining responses, and the Cotton scale measures police officers' attitudes towards the mentally ill.

The scales range from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (5). There was a significant increase in the compassion score —15 percent — after one year of the JDP program. Additionally, all of the scores moved in the desired direction. Overall, the program has shown a beneficial and positive impact for police officers and by default is impacting the way they view and respond to calls for services involving individuals in a behavioral health crisis.

**Before and After Year One of ASHH JDP Program Operations**

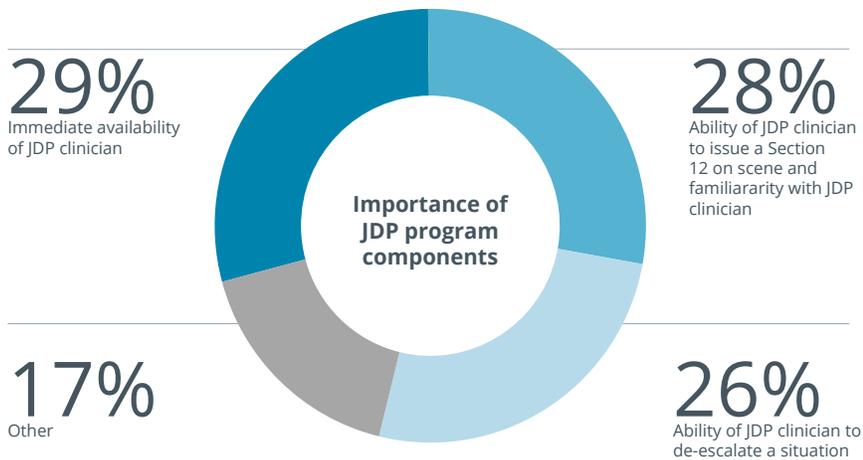
	<b>Avg. Score Before</b>	<b>Avg. Score After</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Compassion	2.06	2.21	15%
Kindness	2.74	2.83	9%
Perceived Dangerousness	2.99	2.90	-8%
Community Inclusion	3.04	3.05	1%
Tolerance	3.48	3.59	11%



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### What Police find important about the Jail Diversion Program

ASHH JDP study participants were asked to rank the different components of the program model in order of importance to them as police officers. The chart below shows the distribution of their 'first importance' rankings.



It makes it easier for me to talk with people dealing with mental health issues knowing that I have a social worker with me. It also makes it easier for that individual to talk to a social worker instead of a police officer.”

MARLBOROUGH POLICE OFFICER

Overall, the program has shown a beneficial and positive impact for police officers and by default is impacting the way they view and respond to calls for service involving individuals in a behavioral health crisis.

## CONTACT

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