



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CRISIS OUTREACH RESPONSE AND EDUCATION

BHCore at the UW

Advancing Mobile Integrated Health in Crisis Response

MIH Symposium, October 10, 2025



BHCore Launches at the University of Washington 2024

Co-Founders Jennifer Stuber and Kim Hendrickson



BHCORE

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CRISIS OUTREACH RESPONSE AND EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON





BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CRISIS OUTREACH RESPONSE AND EDUCATION

Our mission

To reimagine how we respond to behavioral health crises and to transform how frontline responders are recruited, trained and supported.

Bhcore.org



How we serve

BHCore serves the crisis response community in WA using 4 key strategies

Policy Reform

Program Innovation

Training

Workforce Pipeline

Connection to Mobile Integrated Health



"Co-response" means a multidisciplinary partnership between first responders and human services professionals that responds to emergency situations involving behavioral health crises and people experiencing complex medical needs. Participants in co-response respond to in-progress 911 calls, 988 calls, and requests for service from dispatch and other first responders and include first responders such as public safety telecommunicators, law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics, and human services professionals such as social workers, behavioral health clinicians, advanced practice registered nurses, registered nurses, community health workers, and peer support specialists.

MIH and Behavioral Health

Unique role of Fire/EMS
responding to BH needs and
crisis

CARES legislation 2013, 2015
HB 1134 and CBCTs (2023)

Speed

Medical Capacity

Integration

Trust

2022-2023 Legislative Session: \$2m Proviso



- **UW School of Social Work** (later BHCore) works with **CROA** to Encourage Fire/EMS Co-Response
- Proviso funds for behavioral health training for fire/EMS personnel and co-response innovation

BHCORE

BHCORE

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CRISIS OUTREACH RESPONSE AND EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



BHCore Fire/EMS Grants Innovation Areas

1. Fire/EMS agencies becoming licensed as a behavioral health agencies
2. Fire/EMS agencies becoming integrated with regional crisis system
3. Fire/EMS agencies creating overdose response programs
4. Bringing co-response to parts of state not served by co-response programs

14 Month Grant Period 2024-2025

Agency	Grant Amount	Innovation Area
Clark-Cowlitz Fire and Rescue	\$350,000	1, 2
North Mason Fire	\$200,000	2
Port Angeles Fire	\$350,000	2, 3
Poulsbo Fire/Kitsap Fire CARES	\$200,000	1
Riverside Fire	\$350,000	4
South County Fire	\$340,000	2, 3
Spokane Fire	\$200,000	3
Tacoma Fire	\$200,000	1
Walla Walla Fire	\$200,000	4

BHCore Grantee Achievements

Three agencies applied or are in the process of applying for behavioral health agency license; contributing to an online toolkit that will inform other departments (Clark Cowlitz, Poulsbo, Tacoma).

Three agencies started pre-hospital buprenorphine programs and new processes to connect people to care after overdose events (Spokane, Port Angeles, South County); one agency will start bup program this fall (Poulsbo).

Two agencies launched new, multidisciplinary teams in underserved parts of the state (Walla Walla, Riverside).

One agency integrated into 988 response and will receive compensation for responding to crisis calls (Clark Cowlitz).

All Agencies...

Express high satisfaction with the peer to peer networking and learning opportunities the BHCore grant program provides.

Our aim: provide a learning network where professionals can learn from-and inspire-each other.

“Being a BHCore grantee has opened a world of networking and learning opportunities that have greatly enhanced our co-response program. Through BHCore learning collaboratives and regional conferences, our team has gained access to cutting-edge research, best practices from other programs, and specialized training workshops. The grant has given us the incredible opportunity to connect with remarkable individuals, including medical directors, physicians, program leaders, and industry experts. Their shared insights and expertise have provided us with invaluable strategies and resources, enabling us to engage with our local hospital.”

—Port Angeles Fire



Training Opportunities

BHCore provides behavioral health training to first responders, co-responders and other field-based crisis responders

POISE: Frontline Responder Training Academy

COAST: A Roadmap for FIRE/ EMS Responding to Behavioral Health Emergencies

Asking is Caring: Suicide Prevention Peer and Community Response for Law Enforcement

What is COAST?

COAST is a 8-hour basic behavioral health training for fire and emergency medical services. The goals are to enhance skills required in crisis response, improve understanding of behavioral health signs and symptoms, and encourage effective follow up services.



New UW center focuses on behavioral health training for first responders

Jan. 23, 2025 at 10:00 am | Updated Jan. 23, 2025 at 11:00 am



BHCORE

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CRISIS OUTREACH RESPONSE AND EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON



BHCORE

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CRISIS OUTREACH RESPONSE AND EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON



BHCORE

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
CRISIS OUTREACH RESPONSE AND EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON



2025-2026 Activities to Support MIH

Fire/EMS Billing Reform

Innovation Grants

Training

Learning Opportunities

Do you want to Learn More about BHCore?

