



## MASSACHUSETTS: Regional Effort Better Equips Officers for Behavioral Health Disorders

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News Type: Weekly Spark, Weekly Spark News

State: Massachusetts

[The MetroWest Daily News](#) [1]

Three Massachusetts police departments are launching a jail diversion program for people with mental health issues. Northborough, Southborough, and Westborough police are partnering on the effort, which aims to provide people in crisis with treatment-based alternatives to jail. The program will hire a mental health clinician to respond to mental health emergencies alongside officers and help address issues such as homelessness, substance abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assault. Officers will also receive training in how to de-escalate crisis situations. Police departments across the country are seeing an increased need for mental health support among the people they serve, according to Southborough Police Chief Ken Paulhus. "We are trying to get them the services they need," he said.

**Spark Extra!** Learn how [law enforcement officers can help prevent suicide](#) [2].

Settings: Law Enforcement, First Responders

Strategies: Respond to Crisis

### Links within this resource

[1] <https://www.metrowestdailynews.com/news/20181027/regional-effort-better-equips-officers-for-behavioral-health-disorders>

[2] <http://www.sprc.org/sites/default/files/resource-program/LawEnforcement.pdf>

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