

## Crisis Intervention Team – King County

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### PRESS RELEASE

On Tuesday, August 5, 2014, the CIT Regional Conference held a Crisis Intervention Team Awards Dinner at the Hampton Inn & Suites Seattle-Airport.

The awards dinner was provided by the conference to recognize outstanding work by criminal justice personnel using Crisis Intervention Team tools to respond to persons in mental health crisis or with substance use disorder issues more effectively and safely. The conference and dinner were sponsored by the WA State Criminal Justice Training Commission, the CIT-King CO program in partnership with King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division through the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Plan (MIDD), and the Marion County Crisis Outreach Response Team (OR).

The dinner began with speeches from King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division Director, Jim Vollendroff; WA State Criminal Justice Training Commission Executive Director Sue Rahr; and Marion County Sheriff's Office Undersheriff Troy Clausen. The night concluded with the presentation of the awards.

Awards presented:

1. **2014 Crisis Intervention Team Supervisor/Coordinator** – Detective Kendra Conley, Snohomish Police Department/Snohomish County Sheriff's Office
2. **2014 Crisis Intervention Team Agency Executive** – Undersheriff Troy Clausen, Marion County Sheriff's Office
3. **2014 Crisis Intervention Team Mental Health Practitioner** – Justin Dawson, Seattle PD/ Mental Health Practitioner
4. **2014 Crisis Intervention Team Officer of the Year**

*a. Nominees*

- i. Officer Trevor Ziemba, Bainbridge Island Police Department

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- ii. Officer Scott Enright, Seattle Police Department
- iii. Officer Dan Nelson, Seattle Police Department
- iv. Deputy Joseph Winters, King County Sheriff's Office Metro Transit Police
- v. Officer Robert Buendia, Bothell Police Department

*b. Award*

- i. The Officer of the Year for 2014 is Officer Robert Buendia from Bothell Police Department.

We congratulate all of the nominees and award winners for their great work in providing a safe community using crisis intervention team tools.

Photos:



Officer of the Year Nominees (L to R): Officer Trevor Ziemba, BIPD, Officer Scott Enright, SPD; Officer Dan Nelson, SPD; Deputy Joseph Winters, KCSO



2014 Award winners (L –R): MHP Justin Dawson, CIT Supervisor/Coordinator Detective Conley, CIT Officer of the Year Officer Buendia, CIT Agency Executive Undersheriff Clausen

The winning nomination details are:

Award Winner	Nominated By	Nomination Submission
Detective Conley	Sergeant Eric Fournier, Snohomish PD/Snohomish CSO	Det. Kendra Conley is a Detective with the Snohomish Police Department which is a contract city for the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office. Det. Conley realized that the County's response to dealing with mentally ill subjects was woefully inadequate. Det. Conley took it upon herself to research the issue, obtain training and develop better practices for dealing with and providing help to the mentally ill subjects in Snohomish County. She was a key player in the development of the Snohomish County Triage Center and continues to be involved with the Triage Oversight Committee. She stays actively involved with the funding of the programs and was a member of the 1/10th of 1% tax board. Det. Conley was responsible for developing the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office CIT Program and is the lead instructor and primary coordinator. She has been involved in numerous periods of instruction for other agencies across the County and is recognized as the local expert in the subject matter. Det. Conley has received numerous commendations regarding her involvement with the County's approach to dealing with mental illness. She has received a Certificate of Achievement from the First Gentleman of Washington for providing "exceptional service to military veterans and their families". She received a Criminal Justice Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness for her

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		<p>efforts in decriminalizing mental illness. The United Way of Snohomish County commended her for her presentation of the Triage Center. Det. Conley proactively took on this role and responsibility with a passion towards helping people suffering from mental illness.</p>
<p>Undersheriff Clausen</p>	<p>Deputy Kevin Rau, Marion County Sheriff's Office</p>	<p>Undersheriff Troy Clausen started his law enforcement career in a small town police department in 1991. He quickly realized the importance of giving back to his community and requested to be assigned as a school resource officer at the local high school. There, he made a lasting impression on many young people, some of which followed his example and now have promising careers in law enforcement. In 1996, he joined the Marion County Sheriff's Office where he did not remain a deputy for long. He quickly rose through the ranks from Deputy to Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Operations Lieutenant, Enforcement Division Commander, Parole and Probation Division Commander and finally Undersheriff. Throughout his career he has sought out opportunities to change the way law enforcement responds to situations so that the response would be from the position of compassion and empathy. He cares deeply about his fellow law enforcement officers, the Sheriff's Office and his community.</p> <p>Undersheriff Clausen has been a key player in almost every mental health initiative that the Marion County Sheriff's Office has undertaken in the past 10 years. In 2010, he formed the Marion County Mental Health Task Force which is comprised of representatives from law enforcement and mental health agencies across the county. Out of that effort was born a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the chiefs of all Marion County municipal law enforcement agencies, the Marion County Sheriff and the Marion County Health Department Director. That document outlines options, other than arrest, that officers should consider when they encounter someone whose actions are more likely a manifestation of the person's mental illness rather than the result of criminal thinking. The task force also decided to create the Crisis Outreach Response Team (CORT), a multi-agency team comprised of law enforcement officers and mental health professionals. CORT's mission is to divert individuals away from the criminal justice system and toward mental health and other resources in the community. This assists people in improving their quality of life while at the same time reducing the financial burden associated with police response to calls and housing individuals in jail who are mentally ill. In 2013, the Crisis Outreach Response Team offered services to 371 mentally ill individuals including mental health and quality of life assistance.</p>

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		<p>This is one of several efforts in this area. Bookings at the Marion County Jail have dropped from a high near 20,000 per year to just over 14,000, due in large part to Undersheriff Clausen’s leadership. In his humble way, he would attribute the positive outcomes experienced by these efforts to the level of professionalism displayed employees of the Sheriff’s Office.</p> <p>Integrity, Courage, Discipline, Loyalty, Diligence, Humility, Optimism and Conviction. These are the foundational character traits expected of each member of the Marion County Sheriff’s Office. No one embraces and espouses those traits more than Undersheriff Clausen. One of the top ten objectives of the Sheriff’s Office is “Demand management excellence by ensuring we are planning for the future needs of our community and our employees”. Undersheriff Clausen identified the need for change in the way law enforcement responds to mental illness, not just for the safety of Deputies, but also for the safety of the community and those suffering from an often debilitating mental health condition. He has and continues to champion efforts that improve the police response to these situations.</p> <p>For Undersheriff Clausen, nothing is more crucial to effectively providing services than cultivating and maintaining solid partnerships with community leaders and organizations. He has been on the forefront of developing and expanding programs where collaboration is the key. He has had to be creative in his approach to funding new and innovative programs during difficult economic times.</p> <p>Undersheriff Clausen is well respected by citizens, law enforcement officers, supervisors and the criminal justice community as a whole.</p> <p>For the reasons outlined above, I nominate Marion County, Oregon, Undersheriff Troy Clausen for the CIT Agency Executive of the Year.</p>
Justin Dawson	Ann Allen, Harborview Medical Center	We know we can always contact Justin to help smooth out a needed police intervention. He is very skilled as a clinician and helpful to us as an outside customer. He has worked with Josh Torregrossa and Tom Barrett on client contacts and the outcome was greatly appreciated.
Officer Buendia	Captain Mike Johnson, Bothell Police	I am happy to able to nominate one of our patrol officers for this award. Officer Bobby Buendia has been a police officer with the City of Bothell for over 15 years. Prior to working in Bothell, Officer Buendia worked for the Honolulu Police Department.

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	<p><b>Department</b></p>	<p>Officer Buendia has served the community in several roles, including working in the patrol unit as well as the investigations division.</p> <p>As part of my nomination, I would like to describe a particular call Officer Buendia responded to which highlights his use of his CIT skills/training.</p> <p>On April 8th, 2014, Officer Buendia responded to a call of a suicidal female who was threatening to shoot herself. The female is wheel chair bound and had been the victim of a sexual assault in the not too distant past. Upon learning the prosecutor's office was planning not to charge the suspect, she became despondent. The female retrieved her pistol and made threats to shoot herself. Officer Buendia was able to speak with the female over the phone as well as through a partially open door. With a little help from another officer, Officer Buendia was eventually able to "talk" the female into securing the handgun in her gun safe and exiting her apartment. Officer Buendia spent some additional time speaking with the female after she came out of the residence. Officer Buendia did an outstanding job interacting with the female after she "surrendered." Officer Buendia understood how to treat the person at the conclusion of the event and put the entire call into context which resulted in a very positive outcome for all involved. Officer Buendia's actions this day may have saved this woman's life. Officer Buendia credited his performance to his CIT training.</p> <p>In addition to his excellent performance on this call, Officer Buendia is one of the lead members of Bothell Police Department's Peer Support Team. Officer Buendia has worked with our command staff, other team members, and our department chaplains to make our Peer Support Team a tremendous success. In this peer support role, Officer Buendia has been invaluable assisting officers (and other Department members) in need. Most recently Officer Buendia assisted officers who had been involved in a pursuit which ended in a fatality of a driver of a non-involved vehicle after a collision with the suspect vehicle. The non-involved driver was a nurse (and mother) who had just gotten off shift at local hospital and had been driving home to her family. The suspect ran a red light and collided with her vehicle. Officer Buendia assisted the involved officers and again, credited his CIT training which gave him the tools to provide comfort/compassion for the officers.</p> <p>Additionally, Officer Buendia spends extra time on calls involving</p>
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		persons in crisis or others who are simply having a bad day. Officer Buendia is an excellent example of how the skills learned at CIT can be applied every day to enrich not only our department, but our entire community."
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