

CGPD from A1

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— CGPD Chief Scott Shepherd

mandate maintenance training, which amount to 84 training hours every three years.

Annually, the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training requires that officers receive eight hours for use of force or firearms and one hour of ethics training.

Under the three-year requirement, three hours of mental health and crisis intervention training are also required.

As well as maintaining First-Aid and CPR certification at all times, the remaining of the 84 training hours often go into retaining specific certifications.

Through various accredited training options, officers may also bring different specialties to the table, rounding out the department's skill set.

The CGPD's skilled officers include crisis intervention team instructors, firearms instructors, a Taser instructor, a

defensive tactics instructor and a pepper spray, pepper ball and special munitions instructor.

Daily training bullets also give officers 15-minute refreshers on how to follow policy in specific situations.

Despite this range of training, CGPD Chief Scott Shepherd feels there are times when officers are overstretched.

“We do everything from parking tickets to murders and everything in between,” he said. “I think the thing that possibly stretches our ability — and we're asked to do more of it than a Eugene or bigger agency would — is crisis intervention.”

Crisis interventions are time-sensitive responses to situations which involve a psychotherapeutic approach to

stabilizing individuals in crisis states.

Such situations include responding to people who have mental health challenges, acute depression or addiction and the CGPD must rely mainly on officers' de-escalation and communication skills to find solutions.

“There are a lot of things we have to be good at because we're often the first ones to show up,” said Shepherd. “And it really all boils down to communication and being able to communicate with a variety of people in a variety of mental states for a variety of reasons.”

Shepherd said these situations can occur on a daily basis and the lack of a clear step-by-step process or checklist to deal with each particular situation can be a strain on officers.

“Sometimes it does seem to be a little daunting,” he said. “Part of that is because our mental health programs are stretched and limited in what they can do. ... I think there are times we

are required to be more social workers than police officers.”

As such, Shepherd has expressed his admiration for White Bird Clinic's CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets) model in Eugene.

CAHOOTS

The CAHOOTS program was launched in 1989, developed as an innovative community-based public safety system to provide mental health first response for crises involving mental illness, homelessness and addiction.

The program mobilizes two-person teams consisting of a medic (a nurse, paramedic or EMT) and a crisis worker who has substantial training and experience in the mental health field.

In 2019, out of a total of roughly 24,000 CAHOOTS calls, police backup was requested only 150 times, greatly reducing the strain on the Eugene Police Department (EPD).

“Many times what we hear from our law enforcement partners is that they're tired of being the de facto mental health responders,” said White Bird Clinic Co-Coordinator Ben Brubaker. “They don't want to have to deal with those things, especially when it's not criminal in nature.”

As well as maintaining

high praise from law enforcement through the years, part of the program's success can be attributed to White Bird Clinic's established trust within the community.

“I'd say that our non-judgmental, meet-people-where-they're-at approach to clients is ... the cornerstone of how we've been able to develop the kind of programs we have today,” said Brubaker.

With a budget of about \$2.1 million annually compared to EPD's roughly \$68 million, CAHOOTS teams answered 17 percent of the EPD's overall call volume in 2017.

From this, the program has stated that it saves the city of Eugene an estimated \$8.5 million in public safety spending annually, though Brubaker admits that number deserves some wiggle room due to the difficulty in measuring all costs.

“I know that we save on, if nothing else, personnel hours just by being able to respond instead of EMS or police when their level of response isn't needed,” he said. “And there's an associated per-call expense. ... We're simply able to keep those costs down with our particular model because we don't take the same level of equipment out.”

Brubaker also points to the group's ability to avoid ambulance rides

and emergency room visits for clients through preventative services.

With the combination of the program's success and the recent national debate surrounding law enforcement reform, CAHOOTS has been providing consulting and strategic guidance to communities across the nation that are seeking to replicate the model.

“Every community is different and I believe the community conversation needs to drive whatever models and implementations happen,” said Brubaker. “And that goes for across the nation — it is not a cookie-cutter model.”

Though the model operates on some basic premises, Brubaker encourages jurisdictions to identify unmet community needs in translating the program.

The City of Florence on the coast has seen some success since it began operating its own Mental Crisis Response (MCR) program last November, based in part on the CAHOOTS model.

The MCR deploys mental health professionals to work with local law enforcement on issues normally handled by officers alone and the city is looking for county funding to explore more possibilities.

'CAHOOTS lite'

Cottage Grove, however, is not as far along.

“We have the CAHOOTS-type calls, but we don't have the CAHOOTS-type resource,” said Shepherd.

Instead, the department at times reaches out to local nonprofit South Lane Mental Health (SLMH) and the PeaceHealth Cottage Grove Community Medical Center for assistance.

In exploring new options, the police department and SLMH have begun having conversations with CAHOOTS-type models in mind.

“Regarding CAHOOTS, SLMH works closely with White Bird and we will often have them come down to do staff trainings

See CAHOOTS 8A

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Worship Directory

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10:00am
Christian Education: Pre-K through 5th
Tim Baker, Senior Minister
www.6thandgibbs.com

First Presbyterian Church
3rd and Adams St
541-942-4479
Rev.: Karen Hill
Worship: 10:00am
Sunday School: 10:00am
fpcgrove.com

For weekday and Holy Day of Obligation schedule see website OLPHCG.net
Confession: 4 PM to 5 PM
Saturdays or by appointment
St. Philip Benizi, Creswell
552 Holbrook Lane
Sunday 8 am

Calvary Baptist Church
77873 S 6th St • 541-942-4290
Pastor: Riley Hendricks
Sunday School: 9:45am
Worship: 11:00am
The Journey: Sunday 5:00pm
Praying Thru Life: Wednesday 6:00pm

Hope Fellowship
United Pentecostal Church
100 S. Gateway Blvd.
541-942-2061
Pastor: Dave Bragg
Worship: 11:00am Sunday
Bible Study: 7:00pm Wednesday
www.hopefellowshipupc.com
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St. Andrews Episcopal Church
1301 W. Main • 541-767-9050
Rev. Lawrence Crumb
“Church with the flags.”
Worship: Sunday 10:30am
All Welcome

Church of Christ
420 Monroe St • 541-942-8565
Sunday Service: 10:30am

Hope In The Grove Baptist Church
77820 Mosby Creek Rd
Pastor: Wayne Husk
Worship: Sunday 10:00am
Evening Bible Study: Wednesday 6:30pm
541.649.1043

Seventh-day Adventist Church
820 South 10th Street
541-942-5213
Pastor: Kevin Miller
Bible Study: Saturday, 9:15 am
Worship Service: Saturday, 10:40
Mid-week Service: Wednesday, 1:00

Cottage Grove Bible Church
1200 East Quincy Avenue
541-942-4771
Pastor: Bob Singer
Worship 11am
Sunday School: 9:45am
AWANA age 3-8th Grade,
Wednesdays Sept-May, 6:30pm
www.cgbible.org

Living Faith Assembly
467 S. 10th St. • 541-942-2612
Worship Services Sundays: 9a & 11a
Youth Worship Sundays: 11a (all ages welcome)
Mondays: 5:30p (6th-12th grades)

Trinity Lutheran Church
6th & Quincy • 541-942-2373
Pastor: James L. Markus
Sunday School & Adult Education 9:15am
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Comm. Kitchen Free Meal Tue & Thur 5:00pm TLC Groups
tlccg.com

Cottage Grove Faith Center
33761 Row River Rd.
541-942-4851
Lead Pastor: Kevin Pruett
www.cg4.tv
Full Children's Ministry available
Services: 9:00am & 10:45am

Non-Denominational Church of Christ
1041 Pennoyer Ave
541-942-8928
Preacher: Tony Martin
Sunday Bible Study: 10:00am
Sunday Worship: 10:50am & 5:30pm
www.pennoyeravcoc.com

United Methodist Church
334 Washington 541-942-3033
New Pastor Craig Pesti- Strobel
Worship 10:30am
umcgrove.org

Delight Valley
Church of Christ
33087 Saginaw Rd. East
541-942-7711 • Pastor: Bob Friend
Two Services:
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10:30am - Contemporary in the Auditorium

Old Time Gospel Fellowship
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Sunday Service: 10:00am
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Pastor: Barbara Dockery
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First Baptist Church
301 S. 6th St • 541-942-8242
Pastor: David Chhangle
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship Service 10:30am
Youth Wednesday 6:30pm
cgfirstbaptist.com

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Philip Benizi Catholic Churches
1025 N. 19th St.
541-942-3420
Father John J. Boyle
Holy Mass:
Saturday Vigil - 5:30 pm
Sunday - 10:30 am

CRESWELL: Creswell Presbyterian Church
75 S 4th S • 541-895-3419
Rev. Seth Wheeler
Adult Sunday School 9:15am
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 am
website www.creswellpres.org

Our Worship Directory is a weekly feature. If your congregation would like to be a part of this directory, contact us today!

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Cottage Grove, OR

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