

I'm retired from a mental health career. Volunteering as a "listener" at our local winter homeless shelter, I've learned that a high proportion of homeless people have been abused and traumatized, have moderate to severe mental illness, and have addiction histories. These same folks tell tragic tales of their frequent encounters with law enforcement in which they were much more frequently harassed, distressed, or arrested than they were helped or understood. Ever since I toured the CAHOOTS program in Eugene, I've been advocating for mobile crisis response teams in my region of Oregon and elsewhere. I strongly support HB2417.