



WASCOP'S VIRTUAL CRISIS CARE NEWSLETTER

FRONTLINE FOCUS with Lars Nandrup, Patrol Sergeant, Green River Police Dept.

It didn't take long after my first day as a peace officer to realize the issues society and law enforcement face when dealing with people who have mental health issues and manic symptoms due to drugs or alcohol. The system for getting people help can be frustrating—Will the hospital hold the person when I initiate a Title 25 hold? If the person doesn't meet the Title 25 criteria and wants help, what can I do to facilitate that?



DID YOU KNOW?

Virtual Crisis Care is a co-responder team model, meaning it pairs law enforcement with mental health professionals to respond to incidents involving people experiencing a crisis.

Preliminary research suggests co-responder teams may:

- Enhance crisis de-escalation
- Increase connection to services
- Reduce pressure on the criminal justice and behavioral health systems
- Promote cost effectiveness

[Click here](#) to read the research review by International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and University of Cincinnati.

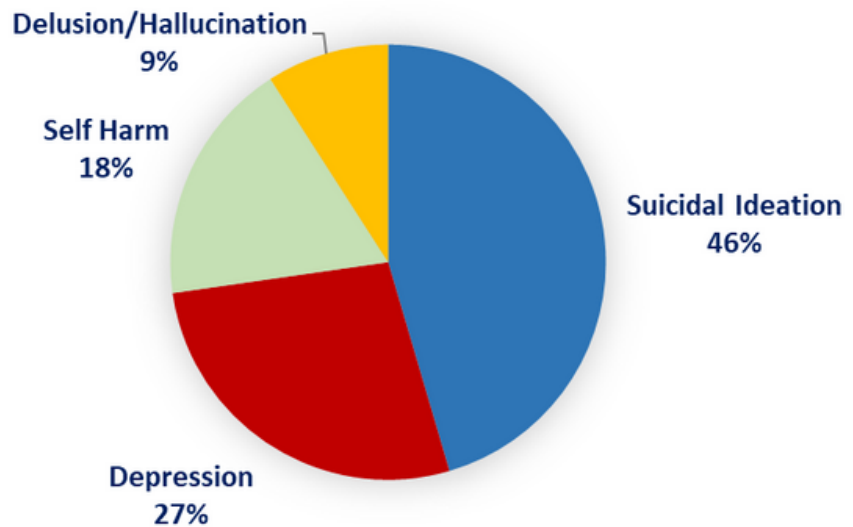
I found my inability to help people very frustrating, which is why I gladly signed up to be part of the Sweetwater County Crisis Intervention Team as the coordinator for Green River PD. Together with our law enforcement partners, we were able to get almost all officers and deputies in the county into Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. We shared experiences with each other and attended conferences together to bring new ideas back to our community.

While CIT helps officers and deputies understand mental health issues and de-escalate some situations, the challenge is getting professional behavioral health help quickly when we need it. We have that now with Virtual Crisis Care. Finally, we have a means to get immediate help to people who want it or are at least open to it. It was a huge relief, for example, that we recently were able to intervene beyond the officer's phone call to support a suicidal individual alone at home with a firearm. It felt good to be able to safely and immediately connect the individual with a trained behavioral health professional, and it was a comfort knowing the care would not end at that point because follow-up care from our local Community Mental Health Center was already set in motion.

I am very happy that Green River PD was not only the first agency in the state to adopt Virtual Crisis Care but also the first to benefit from and use the service. Virtual Crisis Care has truly transformed how we can respond to challenging mental health calls. Our next step is to make sure our officers are utilizing this resource when it can be helpful.

Data Highlight

**Nearly half
of the Virtual Crisis
Care encounters
June–August 2025
involved suicidal
ideation**



Community Mental Health Center Spotlight

High Country Behavioral Health provides comprehensive behavioral health services across seven Wyoming counties: Carbon, Converse, Hot Springs, Lincoln, Niobrara, Sublette, and Uinta. As an early adopter of **Virtual Crisis Care**, High Country is committed to delivering accessible counseling, case management, and crisis services through its network of Community Mental Health Centers.

“We look forward to the opportunity to stand at the crossroads of people’s lives: listening, mentoring, guiding, and teaching. We recognize that we can only reach our full potential as individuals and as an organization to the degree that we can assist others to reach their potential for happiness and well-being.” ~Kipp Dana, Chief Executive Officer

To learn more, visit <https://www.hcbh.org/>

Where is Virtual Crisis Care in Use?

Sheriff’s Offices

Laramie County SO
Niobrara County SO
Sublette County SO
Sweetwater County SO

Police Departments

Douglas PD
Green River PD
Lusk PD
Rock Springs PD