

RCMP



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Surrey RCMP Police Mental Health Outreach Team

Law Enforcement Roundtable on Drugs

March 18, 2021

St/Sgt. Gary Goller

Sgt. Cara Thomson



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada



Evolution: SOT to PMHOT

- Surrey Outreach Team and Police Mental Health Intervention Unit amalgamated in 2019 to form Police Mental Health Outreach Team (PMHOT).
- Increased capacity to provide outreach to those suffering from mental health, substance use, homelessness.
- More consistent and integrated response .
- Operates **19 hours a day, 7 days a week.**



Police Mental Health Outreach Team (PMHOT)

Mandate: Surrey RCMP's Police Mental Health Outreach Team (PMHOT) is dedicated to responding to clients who have contact with police and are dealing with mental health or other quality of life issues such as homelessness or addiction.

- Car 67
- Referrals
- Supporting vulnerable clients
- Tent encampments
- Enforcement



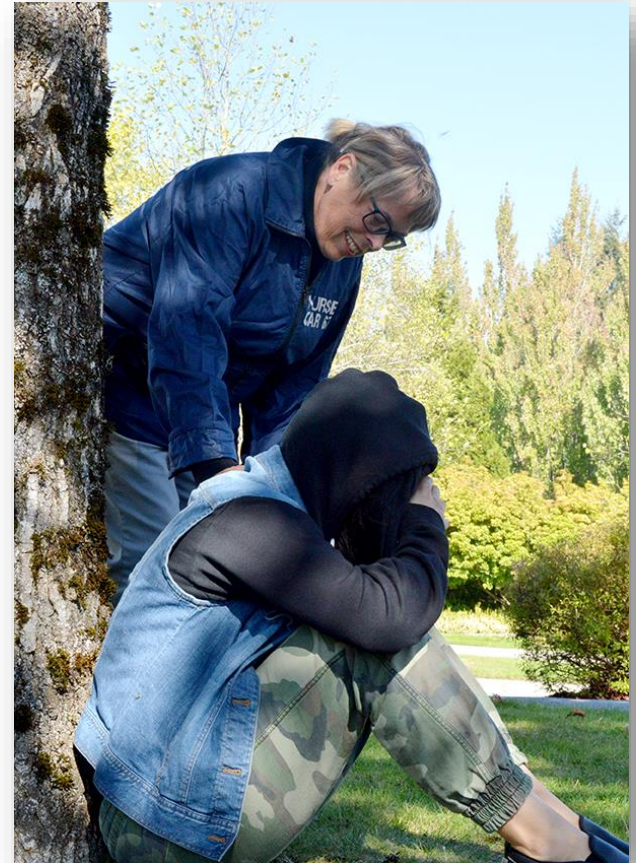
Working in the Community, With the Community

- On site location – satellite police office
- Specially selected and trained team
- Seek **trust** of vulnerable clients
- Business and resident outreach
- Expanded partnerships –Support and alignment from partners and key stakeholders
- Shift from enforcement to relationship building
- Focus enforcement on those preying on vulnerable



Car 67

- Established in 2000 under MOA between RCMP & Fraser Health
- Uniformed officer & psychiatric nurse
- Unmarked police vehicle to enhance privacy
- On-site emotional and mental health assessments, crisis intervention and referrals
7 days a week from 13:00-00:30
- When Car 67 not on shift, officers conduct assessment and determine if apprehension under MHA is required (immediate crisis) or if they can refer to Car 67 for follow up when on shift.



NEWS 1130 LISTEN LIVE LOCAL TRAFFIC VIDEO

Surrey outreach team connecting with people on 'The Strip'

LOCAL

by KAYLA BUTLER
Posted Jan 8, 2017 8:03 am PDT

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FEATURED: THE REAL SCOOP MEDICINE MATTERS EDUCATION REPORT THE SEARC

Street outreach team in Whalley showing encouraging results

Mounties say new unit in Whalley Strip is paying dividends

Vancouver, BC, Canada / News Talk 980 CKNW | Vancouver's News. Vancouver's Talk
Janet Brown

Training

- Police officer training offered by Fraser Health
- Curriculum built for mental health diagnoses and core addictions
- Provides officers with a more in-depth understanding of what their clients may be facing
- On the job training with Car 67 nurse
- Car 67 nurse can provide insight into diagnoses, behaviours and medication management



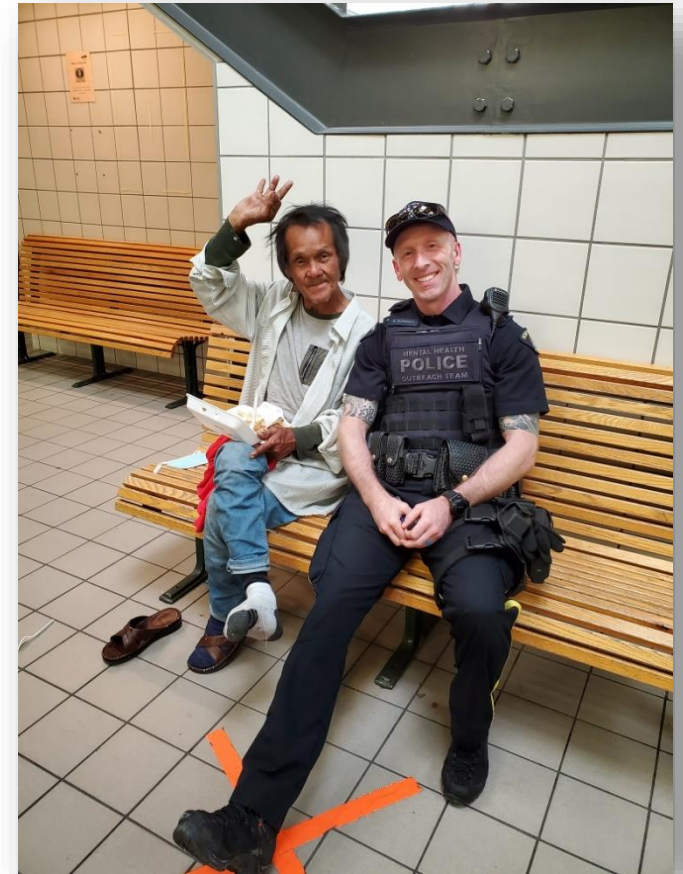
Challenges & Learning Points

- Selecting the right staff
- Compassion fatigue
- Strong communications
- Daily meetings – client privacy
- COVID-19 – health and safety



Successes & Stats

- Stabilization of 135A Street
- Ability to quickly respond to new encampments as they come up
- Through consistent outreach, some clients who have been homeless for years accept shelter space/housing and/or treatment.
- 3404 referrals to services in 2020
- Car 67 supported 848 people in 2020
- 87 Naxolone administrations
- 1,737 Suicide calls for service
- 8,288 Mental Health calls for service



Partnerships

Regular communication to support vulnerable clients collaboratively

- Urgent Care Response Centre (UCRC) partnership
- Support of police and nurse for success
- Maintaining client privacy
- Effective support – Support to Frontline – CAR 67
- City of Surrey Bylaw Enforcement
- Fraser Health
- Lookout Society (outreach/shelters)
- Faith-based agencies
- First responders (EHS, Fire)
- BC Housing

