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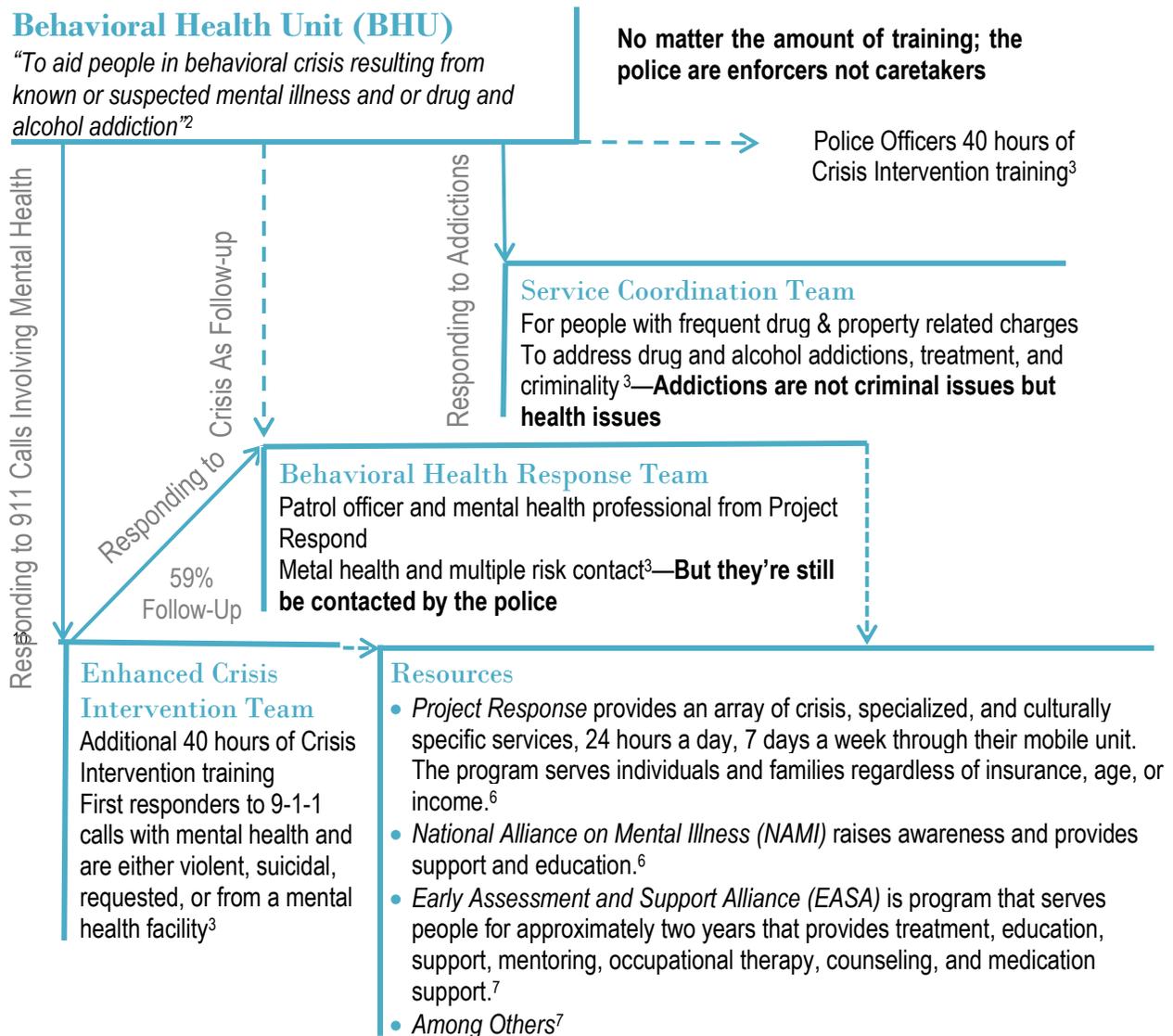
“Operating in an environment of diminished resources for community mental health, housing, and other safety net resources, Police Officers are responding to twice the number of suicide calls than 10 years ago and an ever increasing number of calls for service related to individuals in a mental health crisis.”<sup>1</sup> **But why not just increase “mental health, housing, and other safety net resources” instead of responding to the aftermath?**

# Portland Crisis First Responders

## Behavioral Health Unit (BHU)

“To aid people in behavioral crisis resulting from known or suspected mental illness and or drug and alcohol addiction”<sup>2</sup>

**No matter the amount of training; the police are enforcers not caretakers**



<sup>1</sup> “DOJ.” *Portland Police Bureau*. <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/62044?>

<sup>2</sup> “Behavioral Health Unit.” *Portland Police Bureau*. <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/62135>.

<sup>3</sup> “BHU Brochure.” *Portland Police Bureau*. <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/530578>.

<sup>4</sup> “Project Respond.” *Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare*. <http://cascadiabhc.org/project-respond/>.

<sup>5</sup> “About NAMI.” *National Alliance on Mental Illness*. <http://www.nami.org/About-NAMI>.

<sup>6</sup> “EASA Services.” *Early Assessment and Support Alliance*. <http://www.easacommunity.org/easa-services.php>.

<sup>7</sup> “BHU Community Mental Health Resource Guide.” *Portland Police Bureau*. <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/article/530541>.