Bridgeway's Nicole Crowley Joins Warren County Crisis Negotiation Team for Statewide Competition

Realistic crisis scenarios and FBI evaluations strengthen collaboration between mental health professionals and law enforcement.

On October 16, **Nicole Crowley**, Somerset County ARRIVE Together Director at Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services, joined the Warren County Crisis Negotiation Team for a statewide “Best of the Best” competition designed to challenge crisis negotiation skills and strengthen emergency response preparedness.

The Warren County team competed alongside five other Crisis Negotiation Teams from across New Jersey, navigating two complex, simulated crisis scenarios. Experienced FBI negotiators evaluated the teams, providing constructive feedback to help sharpen communication, negotiation and de-escalation strategies.

Crowley participated as the team's mental health liaison, contributing a behavioral health perspective to situations requiring careful communication, sound judgment and coordinated decision-making.

The experience highlights Bridgeway's growing partnership with law enforcement through **ARRIVE Together** (Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation), a statewide initiative that brings mental health professionals and law enforcement together to improve responses to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises.

In Warren County, Bridgeway collaborates with the Prosecutor's Office, Crisis Negotiation Team, Tactical Response Team and New Jersey State Police TEAMS Unit. Mental health professionals provide behavioral health guidance, support de-escalation efforts and help identify appropriate resources for individuals in crisis.

Joint training exercises such as this competition provide opportunities to strengthen these partnerships before emergencies occur, improving coordination and reinforcing the shared priority of protecting lives.

“The experience provided valuable, constructive feedback, offering insight that will strengthen future crisis response efforts,” Crowley shared. “It was an incredibly rewarding day, and I am grateful for the opportunity to participate alongside such a dedicated team.”

Through continued collaboration, training and shared expertise, Bridgeway and its law enforcement partners are advancing a more informed, compassionate and coordinated approach to crisis response across New Jersey.

Photo caption: Nicole Crowley, Somerset County ARRIVE Together Director at Bridgeway Behavioral Health Services (far left), with members of the Warren County Crisis Negotiation Team during the October 16 “Best of the Best” competition. Warren County Prosecutor Jessica Cardone is pictured at far right.