



Jamestown Fire Department Community Outreach And Support Team (JFD COAST)

An Approach to Older Adult Mental Health

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Why & how we got started?

Members of the Jamestown Fire Department Emergency Medical Service (JFD EMS) raised concerns about residents returning from a hospital stay or emergency department visit.

They recognized that some of the folks they transported to hospitals might have difficulty returning home without assistance.

JFD EMS members saw unsafe or problematic home conditions for residents. Most of the concerns related to older adults.

Southern RI Volunteers stimulated our thinking on a model for transporting Jamestown residents.

Why & how we got started? (cont'd)

JFD Chiefs and EMS members discussed potential solutions and supports that could be developed to assist Jamestown residents.

The JFD Chiefs endorsed the formation of a group of volunteers charged with developing solutions and strategies to assist Jamestown residents.

After months of planning, engaging community members, and developing systems, the JFD Community Outreach And Support Team (JFD COAST) was formed.

JFD COAST is now fully integrated into the JFD and on par with all other JFD companies.

Who is JFD COAST?

- Jamestown residents, including volunteer members of JFD EMS, who bring knowledge/experience from a wide variety of professions.
- These include primary medicine, mental health, substance use, health administration, public health research, PT, OT, speech therapy, education, law, social work, business, architecture, and other disciplines.
- Although COAST volunteers bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise, we do not function as providers of healthcare services.
- However, we will assist Jamestown residents in navigating and engaging with local and state resources to live more successfully and independently.

Our Vision

All Jamestown residents will receive the necessary support and assistance that they need to enable them to live independently in their homes for as long as it is safe and comfortable for them to do so.

Our Mission

JFD COAST provides outreach and support to Jamestown residents within the parameters of our scope of service and confidentiality obligations.

We assist residents with home safety, primary care access, connections to mental health and substance use services, transportation to necessary healthcare and social service related appointments, and access to food and nutrition resources.

We provide services and support free of charge and only at the specific request of our residents.

Our Mission (cont'd)

We collaborate with all resource and service providers engaged with our residents.

We remain flexible to add or remove services and support based on the interests of our residents, the needs of our community, and the existing resources and services available to Jamestown residents.

We keep the needs and interests of Jamestown residents at the forefront of our planning and service development.

A Simple Approach

Improved or positive mental health is driven by the fulfillment of 4 basic needs. They are:

1. Having a sense of caring and belonging; being part of a community.
2. Believing that you have worth and value; you are contributing to a purpose greater than yourself.
3. Having fun, enjoyment, and pleasure as part of your life.
4. Being free to move, go places, and more importantly to make decisions and choices for yourself.



COAST Facilitated Training & Community Presentations

**Suicide Prevention -
Talk Saves Lives
(American
Foundation for
Suicide Prevention)**

**Suicide Loss Day for
Survivors of Suicide
(American
Foundation for
Suicide Prevention)**

**Mental Health and
Wellness Fair (15
local community
organizations serving
our community)**

**988/BH Link
(Newport Mental
Health, Integrated
Healthcare Partners,
BHDDH, Community
Care Alliance)**

**Older Adult
Protective Services -
(Child & Family)**

Training & Presentations (cont'd)

**Critical Incident
Stress
Management**

**Senior Health
and Wellness
Fair**

**COAST services
for Veterans**

**COAST services
for Jamestown
Senior Center
participants**

Fall Prevention

**Behavioral
Health for
Special
Populations**

**More are in
planning stages
for the coming
year**

Provided Free for Jamestown Residents:



Rides to and from local medical appointments or other appointments that support physical or mental health



Attending appointments with residents to assure they are comfortable with the process and outcome of appointments

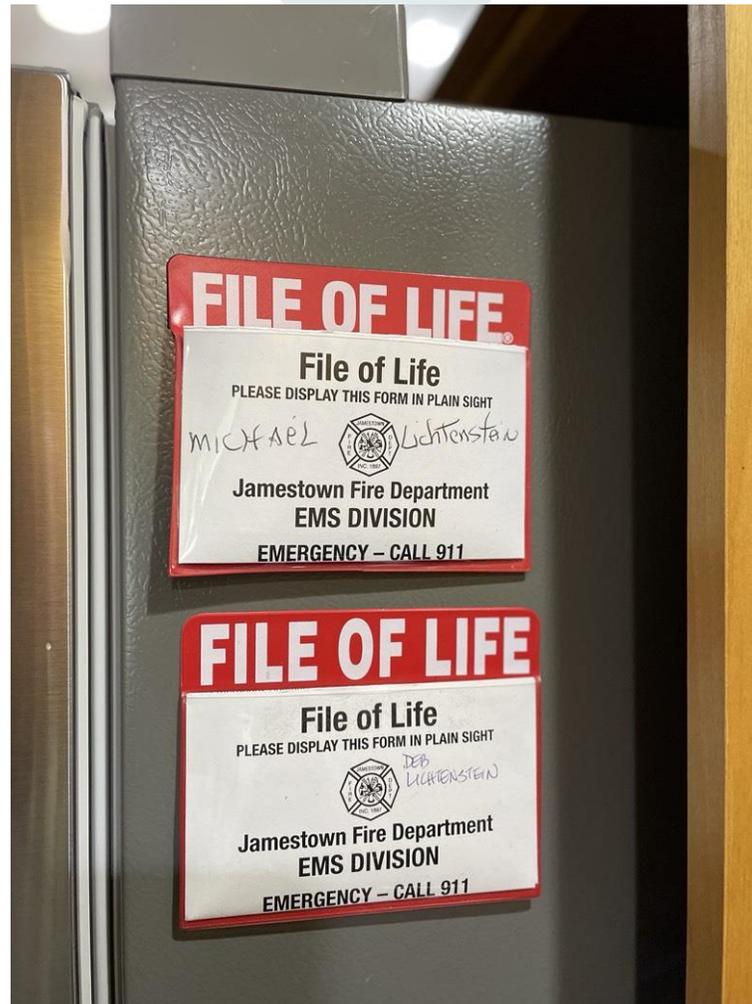


Medical and assistive equipment from the JFD Loan Closet



Safety review of homes including installing smoke/CO alarms, safety rails, grab bars, and home access

Free for Jamestown Residents: (cont'd)

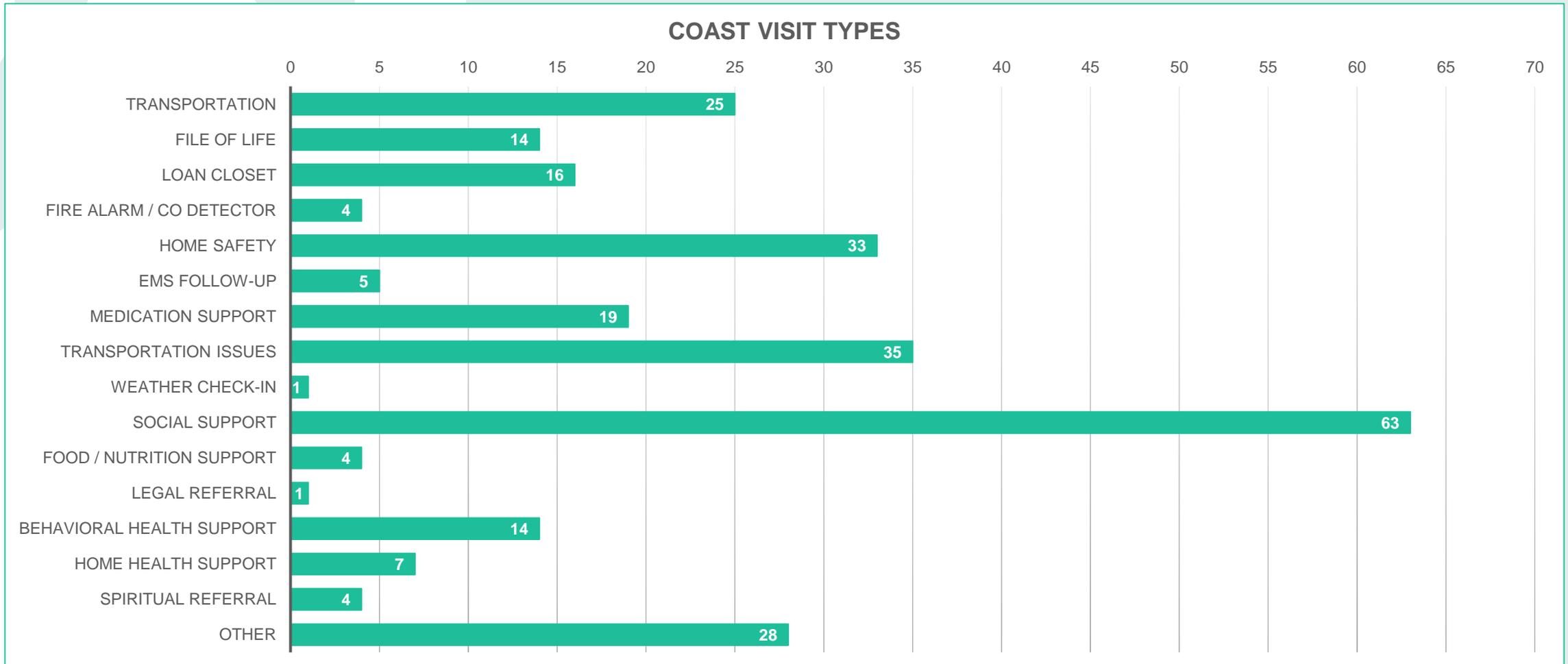


- Distribution of and help filling out the JFD's File of Life
- Information and connection to medical, mental health, and substance use services
- Follow-up support after a family tragedy
- Health education and information about medication, insurance and staying well
- Home visits to check in on residents to assure they are feeling safe, and their needs are being met
- Home safety assessment and minor repairs to improve safety and comfort

COAST 1 Vehicle put into use February 2025



Data on COAST Resident Activities (5/1/25)



“Other” category includes: picking up stamps, delivering urine specimens, housekeeping support, healthcare access, support after family member death, physical issues, snake removal, visually impaired support, moisture in bathroom, assistance with upcoming appointments, COAST overview

Data (cont'd)

Data for JFD Quarterly Meeting 5/1/25

Number of enrolled residents: 48

Total number of residents we've visited: 29

Total number of visits: 126

Date of First visit: 2/12/24; Date of most recent visit: 4/24/25

Loan closet usage in the past year (5/1/24-4/29/25): 83 people, 126 items

Number of rides provided: 26

Excerpts from a letter to the Editor

...A shout-out from a grateful oldster to Jamestown's friendly and dedicated volunteers. . . . serving the community for nearly a year now under the auspices of the Jamestown Fire Department (JFD), providing safe and convenient transportation, services and equipment (crutches, knee scooters, etc.) . . .

. . . the "Coast-mobile" allows for trained JFD volunteers to take several people to appointments at once, often turning necessary trips into pleasant outings. . . with passengers riding in style to and from medical, hospital and dental appointments in Jamestown, Newport and nearby South County . . .

. . .If asked, COAST volunteers will also accompany people into their appointments to provide support and another set of ears to help process the visit. . .

. . . And a trip to get lab work at Newport Hospital in the COAST-mobile was an unexpected chance to reconnect with old friends and neighbors. To a grateful senior, these moments are bright spots and wonderful opportunities to remain connected to my Island community.

For Additional Information or Follow-Up

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