

Dr. Melissa Graham

Dr. Melissa Graham is a licensed psychologist who has dedicated her career to supporting first responders, veterans, and their families. She completed her residency and internship with the Department of Veteran's Affairs before transitioning to work for the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD), where she worked for nearly 20 years. During her tenure with SAPD, Dr. Graham initiated many innovative training initiatives and programs, including crisis intervention training and the peer support program. Dr. Graham was a respected staff instructor at the SAPD Training Academy and was responsible for conducting pre-employment psychological screenings for prospective police applicants. Dr. Graham also provided therapeutic programs and clinical psychological services for officers and their families. Dr. Graham was a member of the SAPD Hostage Negotiation Team, where she was a subject matter expert, providing critical de-escalation guidance during rapidly evolving life-threatening events.

In May 2019, Dr. Graham was promoted to her current position, Director of Psychological Services for the San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD). In this role Dr. Graham has designed new state-of-the-art training programs in support of firefighter needs, including post-incident stress debriefing (PSD) and firefighter wellness programs. In addition, she oversees the department's crisis intervention training and has created the peer support team, which she oversees. Dr. Graham continues to provide clinical therapy for firefighters and their families as well as pre-employment evaluations for prospective applicants.

In 2018, Dr. Graham was awarded Mental Health Professional of the Year for the State of Texas for her efforts on the Texas Crisis Intervention Team. She received her Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University in July 2004 following her Masters in Community Counseling from the University of Oklahoma in 1998.

Dr. Graham serves as the Psychological Services representative in several community action groups and on multiple conference planning committees.