

Brookline 911 dispatcher praised for helping to save a life

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By Brock Parker, Globe Correspondent

Authorities in Brookline are praising the work of a rookie 911 dispatcher who helped a local man perform CPR on his wife last month until emergency medical technicians arrived.

The woman survived, and now Emergency Dispatcher Siobhan McIntyre, who has been on the job since May, has received a commendation from police for her efforts.

"There's nothing like it," McIntyre said. "I saved a life. I had a hand in this."

David Connolly, the chief emergency dispatcher for Brookline, said McIntyre was working on Nov. 13 at 5:22 a.m. when a Brookline man called 911 because he'd found his wife unresponsive in their home.

The woman, who asked to remain anonymous, was in cardiac arrest and her husband did not know how to perform CPR, Connolly said.

"He asked me numerous times: 'What do I do? What do I do?'" McIntyre said. "I was just trying to calm him down. It was frightening to say the least."

McIntyre began walking the man through the steps to perform CPR. She instructed him about how to breathe into his wife and how to perform chest compressions, which he did. At that point, emergency responders arrived and used a defibrillator to revive the woman, Connolly said.

Connolly said McIntyre gets the credit for helping to save the woman's life because she was able to stay calm, get emergency responders in route and help talk the man through performing CPR all at the same time.

"And she's only been on the job since May," Connolly said.

McIntyre, 26, said that while she started in May, she had been training with a partner until she began working on her own in October.

While she is happy to have helped save a life, McIntyre said she's hoping the situation won't arise again any time soon.

"I hope it's a while," she said. "You never want to be in that position again."