

C I R T H a n d o u t

Crisis Intervention & Response Team (CIRT) Enhanced Mobile Crisis Services

Who

- Shasta County Sheriff's Office, Redding Police Department, Shasta County HHSA, Adult Services Branch

Who Else

- Anderson Police Department, Mercy Medical Center Ambulance, Hill Country Mobile Crisis

What

- The goal of these partnerships is to ensure the safety of all, to respond effectively, and to improve access to services and supports for people experiencing a mental health crisis.

Why

- Many people who have behavioral health care needs, particularly those who also have co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, may come into contact with law enforcement during moments of crisis. However, when behavioral health care providers partner with law enforcement to use effective Law Enforcement-Mental Health Collaboration (LEMHC) strategies, they have an opportunity to support sustained wellness for people with behavioral health care needs. When these LEMHCs are implemented and sustained, behavioral health care providers can expect to see the following positive outcomes:
 - Higher quality law enforcement practices through cross training - Partnerships with law enforcement offer behavioral health care providers the opportunity to develop and facilitate cross-training both for law enforcement—which can increase law enforcement understanding of practical approaches and strategies to improve encounters involving people with behavioral health care needs—and for behavioral health care providers, who may need more understanding of law enforcement practices.
 - Alignment of cross discipline needs reflected in practice - Through partnership, planning, and cross-training, behavioral health care providers can assist in the development of collaborative practices so they align with clinical best practices and promote treatment and services over arrest when appropriate.

- Fewer crisis episodes - Trained law enforcement, working side-by-side with behavioral health care providers, are able to identify and effectively engage people with behavioral health care needs through the use of de-escalation techniques that reduce the number and volatility of encounters. When law enforcement responds to crisis situations, this partnership allows them to be better equipped with the skills to approach each encounter effectively, and when appropriate, divert the individual from jail and into more appropriate behavioral health care services.
- Enhanced treatment support – The CIRTeam can support and collaborate across the behavioral health care treatment teams that contribute to the individual’s ongoing connection to the recovery process by participating in treatment planning, law enforcement can help to reduce crisis episodes through proactive coordination with case management with the person’s consent or authorization.
- Improved continuity of community-based services - Fewer incidents of crisis, incarceration, and involuntary psychiatric commitment result in less disruption to both the treatment and community integration plans. If the individual is arrested, the established partnership between law enforcement and behavioral health care providers can increase the likelihood that he or she will receive appropriate treatment while in custody and will be quickly connected to community-based services upon release.



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