Addressing Behavioral Health and Homelessness through Collaborative Responses

CSG Midwest Forum on Social Justice

May 13, 2022 | Dr. Ayesha Delany-Brumsey
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A Comprehensive Crisis Strategy with Essential Components of Local Crisis Responses

**Early Intervention**
Intervening at the first sign of crisis to reduce long-term impacts

**Response**
Providing immediate, short-term assistance to people experiencing a crisis

**Post-Response**
Supporting connections to ongoing services and care following a crisis

**Prevention**
Preventing people from experiencing future crisis

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**Critical elements**
that must be incorporated throughout comprehensive crisis systems:
- Person-centered and strengths-based
- Community response and peer supports
- Law enforcement collaboration
- Trauma-informed care and recovery

**A high-tech 24/7 crisis call center** that can connect people with services, provide on-the-spot telehealth support, and coordinate the crisis response network. Reachable through:
- Dedicated crisis line (e.g., 988)
- Existing emergency line (e.g., 911) with dedicated response staff

**Round-the-clock mobile crisis team responses** that provide services to anyone, anywhere in the community.
May include community responders or co-responses with law enforcement.

**Short-term crisis stabilization services** that provide intensive treatment and supports in collaboration with emergency departments for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis.
This may include crisis stabilization units (CSUs), drop-off centers, or even in-home crisis stabilization.
Responses Fall on a Continuum

- Health First
- Joint Responses
- Specialized Law Enforcement
Responding Collaboratively

Comprehensive, community-wide approaches to help law enforcement and behavioral health improve their responses to people with complex needs while connecting them to services, minimizing arrest, and maintaining safety.
Example Initiatives
New program diverts some 911 calls from police to a mental health team: STAR program reimagines public safety in Denver

New program diverts some 911 calls from police to a mental health team. (2020, July 3). KMGH. 
Divert to Community-Based Services

Intervention: Merrifield Crisis Response Center (MCRC)
Multiple Police Departments & Fairfax County (VA)

Crisis stabilization units provide short-term psychiatric services for people experiencing crises.

Law enforcement transports to MCRC and diversions from arrest are growing.

Addressing Homelessness

Intervention: Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)
Wichita Police Department (KS)

Law enforcement and homelessness services system collaborations offer outreach and call response.

Wichita’s chronically homeless population decreased from 2011 to 2018 with help from HOT
Responding to People with Frequent Contact

Intervention: Chronic Consumer Stabilization Initiative (CCSI)
Houston Police Department (HPD) & The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD (TX)

Mental health clinicians and law enforcement provide case management to “high utilizers.”

CCSI reduced emergency detention orders by 53% for participants

626

53% reduction = $79,450 in savings

296
Elements for Success

- Leadership is committed
- There are strong partnership between law enforcement and behavioral health
- Effective diversion and community-based services are built to scale
- Data is used to identify challenges and examine impact

• Details five actions state policymakers can take to fund and sustain local crisis systems and provides case examples

Center for Justice and Mental Health Partnerships

Free center that offers free assistance and resources to jurisdictions to help improve collaborative responses for people in the criminal justice system who have mental illnesses or co-occurring substance use disorders

• Provides on-demand support
• Can include peer connections, consultation with subject matter expert, training, and tailored resources

Visit: https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/justice-mh-partnerships-support-center/
Questions?

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