

**INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION
COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**

DATE: March 28, 2014

TO: Peggy Romo-West, Chairwoman, Health & Human Needs Committee

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Jim Kubicek, Interim Administrator, Behavioral Health Division

SUBJECT: **Informational report from the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the Behavioral Health Division's crisis mobile team collaboration with the Milwaukee Police Department**

Background

The Crisis Assessment Response Team (CART) has been providing crisis services, assessments, and stabilization in the community since July 16, 2013. CART is an extension of the Behavioral Health Division's (BHD) Crisis Mobile Team and is a collaborative effort between BHD and the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD). There is currently one, two-person CART team in operation. The team is made up of a BHD Behavioral Health Emergency Services Clinician (BHESC) and a City of Milwaukee Police Officer.

The initial intent for the formation of this collaboration was to decrease the number of emergency detentions (EDs) completed in the City of Milwaukee and to offer alternative voluntary interventions for individuals. CART has been assessing consumers who are in custody and preventing unnecessary conveyances to Psychiatric Crisis Services (PCS). Today, CART has become a resource for all MPD officers. CART is called to scenes to evaluate people on site to determine their behavioral health needs and identify treatment options. CART is also able to evaluate people who are in custody and in need of assessment prior to being conveyed to the Milwaukee County Jail.

CART is a valuable resource to the community as it provides expert consultation to MPD officers responding to persons experiencing a mental illness crisis. CART's involvement allows responding officers to return to service more quickly. CART has also provided officers and consumers information on the navigation of the mental health and shelter systems that can sometimes be confusing and/or frustrating.

CART does outreach work with people with the goal of connecting them with the services that may lead to their needs being met and their crisis resolved. CART receives calls from MPD officers seeking advice/guidance on alternatives and appropriate dispositions for cases they are working on that involve behavioral health emergencies. CART has also received direct calls from supervisory MPD staff requesting input and assistance. Lastly, CART is available to assist the Crisis Mobile Team clinicians when appropriate.

Discussion

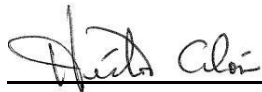
CART is working to establish strong relationships within the Milwaukee Police Department, BHD and community partners. These partners include, but are not limited to, the private hospitals, the shelter network, community behavioral health providers, advocacy organizations, and private citizens who are high utilizers of behavioral health and emergency services. CART works closely with the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) officers of MPD. CART takes an active role in the training of the officers for these teams. Through these collaborations, CART is able to provide additional resources as well as a behavioral health assessment to individuals who have been reluctant to engage in traditional behavioral health services.

CART interventions have been effective in reducing the number of unnecessary emergency detentions as well as increasing the use of non-hospital interventions. Since mid-July 2013, CART has made 143 direct contacts with individuals experiencing a behavioral health emergency. Of these 143 contacts, only 18 have resulted in emergency detentions (12.5%). Therefore, 87.5% of the time, CART is able to help individuals stabilize or receive voluntary services instead of involuntary treatment. Of the 18 who were emergently detained, 15 cases resulted in a civil commitment or stipulations for treatment.

In 2014, a second team consisting of a clinician and an MPD officer will be added to CART. This will allow for expanded coverage so that even more individuals can be assisted in the community.

Recommendation

This is an informational report. No action is necessary.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, County Board
Don Tyler, Director – DAS
Josh Fudge, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget
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