



July 16, 2021

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Information EMBARGOED Until News Conference

Behavioral Health Co-Response Pilot Program Expands to 12th Precinct

Partnership Gains Momentum as Officers Respond to Increased Mental Health Calls

July 20, 2021 -- DETROIT-MI The Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN) in partnership with the Detroit Police Department (DPD) will hold a press conference providing a progress report on its landmark Behavioral Health Co-Response Pilot and its expansion into yet another DPD precinct. The event will be held on Tuesday, July 20th at 10:00 at Detroit Public Safety Headquarters in the Skylar Herbert Room.

The partnership, announced in December of 2020, introduced the pilot program which helps officers identify individuals with mental health needs and connects them to agencies who can provide appropriate support services.

“This collaboration just continues to improve and expand and we could not be more pleased with the progress we are making when it comes to helping officers understand the needs of those who are having mental health concerns,” said DWIHN Interim CEO/President Eric Doeh. “The fact that we have trained mental health clinicians sitting alongside 9-1-1 call center staff to identify mental health calls is invaluable and we are incredibly proud to be part of this groundbreaking program.”

The collaboration, which is currently operating in four precincts and expanding to the 12th precinct, helps improve police and community relationships along with addressing the mental health needs of the people in the City of Detroit. The partnership goals include:

- Pilot a 911 mental health crisis call diversion and response staff
- Increase police officer access to mental health supports
- Develop adequate places to house individuals in need of crisis services
- Evaluate and expand Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training of police officers and 911 staff

The CIT portion of the pilot program includes a team of behavioral health specialists and CIT trainers, who train DPD officers to recognize people who are experiencing mental health and/or substance use issues and connects them to supportive services in addition to co-responding to police runs with a mental health component.

“I have always emphasized that properly responding to mental health calls is absolutely paramount,” said Detroit Police Chief James White. “My team and I are dedicated and committed to making sure this initiative continues to expand and thrive.”

Statistics show that DPD responds to at least 20 mental health related 911 calls for service per day, 70% which are categorized as violent and because of this, DWIHN clinicians are currently embedded within Detroit’s 911 Call Center. These mental health professionals connect callers who are experiencing behavioral health emergencies to support services and are assigning calls to the CIT Co-response units when appropriate. When not responding to incoming

crisis calls, the clinicians make follow-up calls to callers identified as high utilizers of 911 and connect them to mental health and other needed services. Trained 9-1-1 call takers are also learning to better identify mental health crises calls by transferring them to DWIHN crisis lines as needed.

DWIHN hopes to expand this partnership to other police departments in Detroit and Wayne County. So far, DWIHN has trained officers in the following areas:

- Alpena County Sheriff's Office
- Canton Police Department
- Chocoday Township Police Department
- Detroit Police Department
- Eastpointe Police Department
- Ecorse Police Department
- Garden City Police Department
- Greektown Casino Security
- Inkster Police Department
- Ishpeming Police Department
- Jackson County Sheriff's Office
- Jackson Police Department
- Livonia Police Department
- Marquette County Sheriff's Office
- Northville Township Police Department
- Plymouth Township Police Department
- Safe Management at Ford Field
- Schoolcraft College Police
- Van Buren Township Dept of Public Safety
- Wayne County Sheriff's Office
- Wayne State University Police
- Ypsilanti Police Department

Other types of training offered by DWIHN includes Mental Health First Aid, Narcan and QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer)/suicide prevention. Additionally, 20% of DPD's responding officers will be certified in CIT skills, which is a 40-hour training that teaches a community-based approach to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Currently, DPD has over 90 officers trained in CIT. DWIHN has trained over 130 dispatchers from the DPD 911 call center. Dispatchers have received 16-hour CIT training. All of the pilot's participating behavioral health specialists will be trained in CIT.

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