

Resources and Examples for Innovative Co-Responder and Collaboration Programs

Reports and Resources

- [Police-Mental Health Collaboration \(PMHC\) Toolkit | Bureau of Justice Assistance \(ojp.gov\)](#)
- [How to Successfully Implement a Mobile Crisis Team \(csgjusticecenter.org\)](#)
- [SAMHSA's National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care](#)
- [Responding to Individuals in Behavioral Health Crisis via Co-Responder Models: The Roles of Cities, Counties, Law Enforcement, and Providers](#) (program examples included in report)
- [Crisis Response | CSG Justice Center](#)

Collaboration Examples

- [Lake County, Illinois Criminal Justice Community Council](#)
Lake County, Illinois, funds a Criminal Justice Community Council (CJCC) to allow community members and stakeholders to review jail population data and identify areas to target efforts, including pretrial reform, domestic violence, and overdoses. A separate team focuses on issues of racial and ethnic disparities affecting relations between the justice system and the community.
- The Pierce County (Washington) Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Steering Committee, made up of court, jail, law enforcement, and state agency personnel, along with behavioral health and housing providers, crisis programs, managed care organizations, diversion programs, and advocates, assesses barriers to individuals in the behavioral health and justice systems.

Co-Responder Law Enforcement Examples

- [Responding to Individuals in Behavioral Health Crisis via Co-Responder Models: The Roles of Cities, Counties, Law Enforcement, and Providers](#)
The police department of Springfield, Missouri, collaborates with Burrell Behavioral Health on a virtual mobile crisis intervention known as the "Springfield Model" that supplies officers with iPads to allow them to connect with behavioral health specialists for real-time assessments and referrals and has resulted in a significant REDUCTION OF HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS.
- [Responding to Individuals in Behavioral Health Crisis via Co-Responder Models: The Roles of Cities, Counties, Law Enforcement, and Providers](#)
Behavioral health "navigators" hired by the Poulsbo, Washington, Police Department serve as a bridge between the justice and behavioral health systems, providing assistance during both crisis situations and for routine follow-ups.
- [Responding to Individuals in Behavioral Health Crisis via Co-Responder Models: The Roles of Cities, Counties, Law Enforcement, and Providers](#)
Arizona's Mental Health Support Team (MHST), a specially trained unit comprised of members of the Pima County Sheriff's Office and the Tucson Police Department, pairs plainclothes MHST

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officers and licensed mental health clinicians in its co-responder program. This allows for a timely and simultaneous response by law enforcement and mental health professionals.

- [Responding to Individuals in Behavioral Health Crisis via Co-Responder Models: The Roles of Cities, Counties, Law Enforcement, and Providers](#)

The Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COaST) that supports the Albuquerque Police Department is staffed by civilian crisis specialists who defuse situations, connect individuals to needed services, and provide ongoing support.

- [Spokane, Washington Community Diversion Unit](#)

The Community Diversion Unit of Spokane, Washington, provides mental health professionals from Frontier Behavioral Health who accompany police officers responding to 911 calls and make referrals to housing, substance use disorder treatment, and other emergency and routine services.

- [Lake County, IL - Safety and Justice Challenge](#)

The Crisis Outreach and Support Team (COAST) of Lake County, Illinois, sends a social worker and a sheriff's deputy to provide a warm handoff and follow-up support for up to 90 days for individuals after they have had police contact during a mental health or substance use crisis.

- [Lucas County, Ohio Drug Abuse Response Team \(D.A.R.T.\)](#)

In Lucas County, Ohio, the Drug Abuse Response Team (DART), made up of officers, advocates, social workers, and peer supporters, sends small teams to hospitals, homes, and shelters to find individuals with substance use disorders and help them through withdrawal and into long-term treatment.

- [The Milwaukee County CART Team](#)

Through the Milwaukee Crisis Assessment Response Team (CART), officers and behavioral health clinicians in tandem bring individuals experiencing mental health crises to safe environments until they are stable, and then refer them to treatment facilities.

- [Colorado Co-Responder Program](#)

The co-responder models funded by the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health allow either an officer and a behavioral health specialist to ride together and respond to crises or for the specialist to be called separately to the scene, where specialist and officer can then collaborate.

- [Franklin County, Pennsylvania Community Liaison Program](#)

The Mental Health Co-Responder Program in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, has not only reduced unnecessary justice system involvement for individuals with mental illness, an intellectual or developmental disability, autism, or co-occurring disorder, it has even connected local seniors with area services.

- [Olympia, Washington Crisis Response Unit](#)

Peer outreach is the backbone of the Crisis Response Unit (CRU) of Olympia, Washington. Individuals in crisis are referred by law enforcement and community members, but a CRU presence in specific areas of the city means team members are able to provide a real-time response to crises.

Jail-Based Co-Responder Models

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Denver’s Crisis Intervention Response Unit (CIRU) offers post-jail reentry support through a team of licensed clinicians, officers, and medical personnel who collaborate on everything from short-term crisis stabilization to transportation for the individual to and from long-term treatment appointments.

School-Based Example

- [Kansas City Public School District #500 - Trains all school resource officers in Mental Health First Aid](#)

All school resource officers in P.S. District 500 in Kansas City, Kansas, are trained in Mental Health First Aid, which they in turn share with district police officers, mental health and school counselors, district employees and volunteers, and members of the parent-teacher association.

Fire Department Examples

- [Responding to Individuals in Behavioral Health Crisis via Co-Responder Models: The Roles of Cities, Counties, Law Enforcement, and Providers](#)

The Community Response Team (CRT) joins the Colorado Springs police and fire departments with a local behavioral health provider, thereby reducing emergency department admissions by directing individuals in crisis to the proper service. In addition, diverting 911 calls to the CRT means other emergency responders are less burdened.

- [Poulsbo Fire Cares | City of Poulsbo](#)

Community Assistance, Referral, and Education Service (CARES) is a mobile integrated health response unit in Poulsbo, Washington, that’s staffed by a firefighter/emergency medical technician trained in crisis intervention and a behavioral health professional.

- [Bellevue, Washington Fire CARES \(Citizen Advocates for Referral and Education Services\)](#)

Citizen Advocates for Referral and Education Services (CARES) in Bellevue, Washington, responds to referrals from police officers and firefighters to help individuals—often elderly or experiencing homelessness—with specific needs that do not rise to the level of emergency calls.

- [Eugene and Springfield, Oregon CAHOOTS Program](#)

The Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets (CAHOOTS) program in Eugene, Oregon, supplies two-person teams consisting of a nurse, paramedic, or emergency medical technician and a behavioral health professional to provide nonviolent resolution to crises, along with care for non-emergent medical issues.

Other Co-Responder Models

- [Mental Health Association of Nebraska : Home \(mha-ne.org\)](#)

Mental Health Association of Nebraska’s Respond, Empower, Advocate, and Listen (REAL) program offers trained peer specialists who provide free, voluntary, nonclinical support to individuals with behavioral health issues.

- [Greeley and Evans, Colorado Co-Responder Program](#)

One Denver co-responder program focuses solely on public transportation, sending a transit officer and a clinician to evaluate disruptive passengers for medical causes and/or possible criminal conduct. Based on those findings, they may call for medical backup or assist the individual in accessing appropriate community resources.

- [San Francisco Rapid Response Teams](#)

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The support provided by Street Overdose Response Teams (SORTs), made up of members of San Francisco's health and fire departments, ranges from assisting an individual recovering from an overdose to finding food or housing to helping them find a medication-assisted treatment program, if they're interested.

- [Reno, Nevada Officer Wellness Program](#)

Reno's Police Department offers its staff an officer wellness program and wellness clinic that together address nutrition and exercise, as well as lifestyle management, emotional health, and psychological intervention in the wake of traumatic events.