

Memorandum



Date: October 16, 2020

To: Honorable Chairwoman Audrey M. Edmonson
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Item No. 14(B)(1)
October 20, 2020

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

Subject: Report to examine the Feasibility of Creating and Implementing a Countywide Mobile Crisis Intervention Program Modeled After the CAHOOTS Program or Other Similar Program that Deploys Behavioral Health First Responders Directive 201239

The following information is provided in response to Resolution No. R-745-20, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on July 21, 2020, which directs the County Mayor or the County Mayor's designee to examine the feasibility of creating and implementing a Countywide mobile crisis intervention program modeled after the Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) program in Eugene, Oregon, or other similar program that deploys behavioral health first responders.

Currently, activists have urged cities to redirect some of their police budget to groups that specialize in treating a broad spectrum of issues, from homelessness and mental illness to substance abuse. Consequently, the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) has reviewed a program launched in 1989, as a partnership between the White Bird Clinic and the City of Eugene called CAHOOTS. CAHOOTS are police funded mobile crisis response teams that operate to address those in need of mental and medical health, legal aid, and substance abuse counseling. The program's total budget is \$2.1 million annually, of which the City of Eugene funds \$1,079,000 through the Eugene Police Department. This enables the White Bird Clinic to sustain two teams, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to maintain the CAHOOTS program. CAHOOTS mobilizes two-person teams consisting of a medic (a nurse, paramedic or emergency medical technician) and a crisis worker who has substantial training and experience in the mental health field. CAHOOTS mobile crisis response teams deal with a wide range of mental health-related crises, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, suicide threats, and more, relying on trauma-informed de-escalation and harm reduction techniques. CAHOOTS mobile crisis response teams provide immediate stabilization in case of urgent medical need or psychological crisis, assessment, information, referral, advocacy, and in some cases, transportation to the next step in treatment. All CAHOOTS program services are free and confidential. CAHOOTS offers a broad range of services, including but not limited to:

Suicide Prevention, Assessment, and Intervention
Conflict Resolution and Mediation
First Aid and Non-Emergency Medical Care
Resource Connection and Referrals
Transportation to Services

Crisis Counseling
Housing Crisis
Grief and Loss
Substance Abuse

The 2019 U.S. Census reported the Cities of Eugene and Springfield had a combined population of 235,852 living within 59.46 square miles. The Eugene Police Department commissions 192 sworn law enforcement, 136 civilian employees, and 30 volunteers, and responds to approximately 256 calls-for-service a day, generating an average of 26,000 yearly criminal cases. In contrast, the 2019 U.S. Census estimated Miami-Dade County's total population at 2.717 million. MDPD, the eighth largest law enforcement agency in the United States, consists of approximately 3,100 sworn law enforcement and 1,300 civilian employees.

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The Department responds to approximately 418,800 emergency/non-emergency calls-for-service per year. From 2018, to June 30, 2020, the Department responded to a total of 19,812 “Baker Act” and suicide related calls-for-service, and averages 22 mental health associated calls-for-service daily. Accordingly, to effectively deploy mobile crisis response teams within unincorporated municipal service areas of the County, including the three contracted municipalities, the following is required:

- 24-hour response capabilities, 365 days a year
- 14 teams, each comprised of one licensed clinical social worker and one paramedic
- Communications/dispatch capabilities
- Equipment such as vehicles

The Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD) advised the annual cost of a state of Florida licensed clinical social worker ranges from \$75,200.00 - \$118,400.00 (including fringe benefits); additionally, the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue advised the approximate annual cost of a paramedic ranges from \$125,000 - \$130,000 (including fringe benefits) As a result, the potential yearly fiscal impact of staffing mobile crisis response teams comprised of 14 licensed clinical social workers and 14 paramedics is at a minimum, approximately \$2,802,800, which excludes any related overtime cost or additional vehicles and equipment necessary to operate the program. If a CAHOOTS model program is implemented, personnel required to staff the mobile crisis response teams will be acquired via the aforementioned County agencies.

In June 2018, MDPD launched the Threat Management Section (TMS), a specialized unit specifically tasked with improving responses and outcomes for individuals with mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse who come into contact with the criminal justice system. The TMS is currently comprised of one lieutenant, two sergeants, 14 officers, and one police records specialist 1 at a total cost of \$2,374,000 per year (including fringe benefits). A TMS Squad consists of one sergeant and seven officers. Much like the CAHOOTS program, MDPD coordinates system resources for people who are accessing multiple public services, including hospital emergency rooms, jails, and mental health crisis services. The Department provides proactive crisis intervention, communal support, and other social services by bridging the gaps between mental health providers, courts, and law enforcement.

MDPD participates as an active member of a community-based care coordination. Stakeholders Include:

Citrus Family Health Network	Miami-Dade Schools Police Department
Federal Bureau of Investigation	Miami Police Department
Florida Department of Children and Families	Miami Veterans Affairs Police
Florida International University Police Department	Thriving Mind South Florida
Homestead Police Department	United States Secret Service
Miami Beach Police Department	University of Miami Police Department

TMS personnel perform case management for individuals detained under Florida’s “Baker Act” statute with multiple incidents (high utilizers) or who have displayed violent tendencies; threat assessment and case management involving individuals identified as a person of concern with a

believed mental condition who have engaged in or are suspected of noncriminal behavior that could lead to a targeted act of violence to others; and provide follow-up threat assessment and case management for individuals who have been served with a risk protection order and are believed to have a mental condition. Additionally, TMS personnel are tasked with investigating individuals detained under Florida's "Baker Act" or "Marchman Act" statutes, who are in possession/proximity of firearms or ammunition. All TMS personnel, as well as MDPD sworn personnel, have attended 40 hours of Crisis Intervention Team training, and are permitted to involuntarily detain and transport an individual to a designated receiving system, which reduces the time and expense of ambulance, jail, and emergency room services. There are 17 behavioral healthcare treatment providers geographically positioned throughout the County, ready to receive any individual believed to be a danger to himself or others, and necessitates immediate care or treatment for mental illness.

Through grant funding provided by the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs to support the County's Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, MDPD is currently seeking two full-time licensed clinical social workers. Social workers will serve as co-responders with TMS personnel to render immediate screenings, continuity of care coordination, and treatment referrals, and Miami-Dade Fire Rescue personnel will be contacted to respond to a scene as conditions necessitate medical attention. Additionally, grant funds are being utilized to bridge the critical gap of information sharing between law enforcement agencies and mental health providers. The TMS is currently developing a shared information database with mental health agencies to improve the mental health provider infrastructure (data sharing) where each can access data systems regarding individual's "Baker Act" history. The technological and operational advances will improve responses and outcomes for individuals with mental illness to include high utilizers and substance abuse.

The CAHOOTS program essentially parallels the existing partnership between MDPD and behavioral health providers, which collaborate with the TMS. This allows individuals diagnosed with mental illness to receive appropriate treatment and care coordination. Essentially, the CAHOOTS program that has been implemented elsewhere is not financially feasible in Miami-Dade County due to the differences in geography, population, call volume, and current inability to share data among mental health providers. To create or implement a Countywide mobile crisis intervention program would duplicate and impede the current efforts and support of the County's Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, and the efforts of the Department's TMS.

Should you require additional information, please contact Director Alfredo Ramirez III, Miami-Dade Police Department, at 305-471-3272.

Per ordinance No. 14-65, this report shall be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda.

- c: Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
- Gerri Bonzon-Keenan, First Assistant County Attorney
- Maurice L. Kemp, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
- Alfredo Ramirez III, Director, Miami-Dade Police Department
- Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
- Melissa Adames, Clerk of the Board
- Eugene Love, Agenda Coordinator