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Greenbelt Police Department Announces New Crisis Intervention Team

GREENBELT, MD- The Greenbelt Police Department has launched a new unit, the Crisis Intervention Team, to help redirect individuals with behavioral health issues from the judicial system to the health care system.

The Crisis Intervention Team is an integration between police and behavioral health professionals to assist community members with behavioral health concerns with mental health and/or substance use intervention and linkage to additional community resources.

The goals of the Crisis Intervention Team include:

- Providing improved outcomes of police interactions community members with behavioral health diagnoses.
- Redirecting clients with behavioral health concerns from the judicial system to the health care system.
- Reducing the number of repeat calls for service for persons with behavioral health concerns.
- Reducing incidents in which someone with behavioral health issues commits criminal acts.
- Reducing incarceration of persons with behavioral health diagnoses.
- Reducing recidivism by adult and juvenile consumers with behavioral health diagnoses.

Contact is initiated by a call for service with a behavioral health component. Following the co-responder model, the first contact between the clinician and client includes the presence of a police officer. For case management follow-up, the clinician uses professional judgement to determine if there is a safety concern and a need for an officer presence at follow-up appointments.

Types of calls CIT will assist with include welfare checks, domestic disputes, geriatric and juvenile issues with behavioral health concerns, victim support, critical incidents, emergency petitions, and repeat callers to 911 who are identified with behavioral health concerns. Generally, the CIT Unit provides follow-up to individuals with behavioral health concerns, those with developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders.



Since the team launched on July 11, 2022, CIT handled 34 calls for service and follow-up visits.

“With the creation of the Crisis Intervention Team, we are continuing to build on the resources we can provide to the community, furthering our commitment to serve Greenbelt to the best of our abilities,” said Chief Richard Bowers, “this program, along with mental health services offered by GreenbeltCARES, provides the highest level of care for our residents. The goal of community policing is prevention. When an individual is linked to appropriate community resources, they are then supported and less likely to be involved in inappropriate or criminal behavior.”

Rachel Tobin was hired at the beginning of July as the Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator. She is a licensed social worker with seven years of experience working in the crisis arena. The Greenbelt Police Department will begin searching for a second clinician to join the Crisis Intervention Team in the fall.

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