

FY 2021-22 Budget Workshop Board Inquiry Form

Board Member	
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Inquiry Number:012

Department: Behavioral Wellness and Sheriff
 Date: 5/11/2021
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Request/Question:

Has the implementation model of the County's co-response teams been evaluated? What efficiencies could be introduced to ensure appropriate availability and coverage and reduce response times? Would these efficiencies be sufficient to address community needs, gaps in service, etc., or are additional resources needed?

Co-response teams pair a Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) trained Sheriff's deputy with a mental health practitioner to respond to mental health crisis calls with the goal of de-escalating crises and diverting individuals away from the criminal justice system and into treatment when safe and appropriate to do so. The Behavioral Wellness Department partners with law enforcement on four co-response teams with an additional team planned. Three co-response teams, funded through the BSCC Prop 47 Grant Program and Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne JAG) are in partnership with the Sheriff's Office. Team 1 operates Monday through Thursday in South County; team 2 operates Wednesday through Saturday in South County; and team 3 operates Monday through Thursday in North County (covering Santa Maria, Lompoc, Los Alamos, and the Santa Ynez Valley). Additionally, Behavioral Wellness partners with the Santa Barbara Police Department to operate a co-response team that works Tuesday through Friday (SBPD is exploring the addition of a team). Santa Maria Police Department has fielded a mental health officer who will be partnered with a clinician in the near future. The Sheriff's Office hosts joint weekly and monthly meetings with all co-response teams and supervisors to establish best practices, support personnel, and have ongoing training. The total cost of the services currently being provided is \$1.1 million.

Current Costs

Behavioral Wellness	FTE	Annual Cost	Medi-Cal	Grant
Mental Health Practitioners (1.0 FTE @ \$150K)	3.0	\$450,000	\$90,000	\$360,000
Diversion Program Coordinator (1.0 FTE @ \$175K)	0.5	\$87,500		\$87,500
Services and Supplies (e.g., training, travel, supplies)		\$15,000		\$15,000
Subtotal: Behavioral Wellness	3.5	\$552,500	\$90,000	\$462,500
Sheriff	FTE	Annual Cost		Grant
Sheriff's Deputy (1.0 FTE @ \$186K)	3.0	\$558,000		\$558,000
UCSB Data Gathering		\$36,000		\$36,000
Services and Supplies (e.g., training, travel, supplies)		\$15,000		\$15,000
Vehicle Operating Costs		\$13,000		\$13,000
Subtotal: Sheriff	3.0	\$622,000		\$622,000
Total		\$1,174,500		\$1,084,500

Grant funding for the current co-response teams will expire in October 2022 (Byrne JAG, \$715,000 per year and \$2.1 million over three years) and February 2023 (Prop 47, \$367,000 per year and \$1.1 million over three years). The FY 2021-22 Recommended Budget includes a \$500,000-set-aside to be used as bridge funding should the grant funding expire before new ongoing resources can be secured. The County is working to identify alternative funding sources to continue the support for the co-response teams, but this remains a potential fiscal issue on the horizon.

Behavioral Wellness and the Sheriff's Office continue to gather data on the co-response teams. An evaluation was conducted by Social Finance, though the final report is not yet available. Based on Sheriff dispatch call data for calendar year 2020, Sheriff's deputies responded to 2,984 mental health calls and the co-response teams handled 1,606, or 54%, of those calls. However, considering only those mental health calls that occur during co-response operation hours, the number of calls handled by a co-response team increases to 72%. Fewer than 15 out of the 1,606 calls fielded by co-response ended with an individual going to jail. The top two categories of calls are for suicidal subjects and requests to check the welfare of individuals. Data shows that co-response teams are more efficient in resolving mental health calls and spend less time on each call than non-co-response teams. Co-response teams spend an average of 46 minutes per call while deputies spend an average 128 minutes per call (calculated as total minutes spent by all personnel involved). Data shows that the majority of mental health crisis calls come in between 9:00 am and 6:00 pm. Data also shows that a significant number of mental health calls come in during the hours of 7:00pm and 1:00 am, when co-response teams are not operating.

To better address community needs, the Sheriff's Office and Behavioral Wellness identified two potential areas that may be improved: scheduling and cross-jurisdictional response. The two existing co-response teams in South County can be scheduled in staggered shifts to maximize coverage throughout the day. Teams are currently scheduled to work 10-hour shifts from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm for four days per week, and on two of those days the teams overlap. This was done in order to allow the clinicians and deputies time to complete their paperwork, to allow time for all inclusive meetings and training, and to provide adequate coverage on the busiest days of the week for mental health crisis calls. Staggering shifts would allow for additional coverage over time; however, it would reduce the co-response mental health professionals available to conduct follow-up visits, complete paperwork and reports, and could result in delayed response to crisis calls. Additionally, coverage would not extend to Sundays given the existing resources. It is also important to establish flexibility in responding to mental health crisis calls such that calls in unincorporated and incorporated areas that are served by their own police departments have access to co-response teams when needed. At present, Santa Barbara Police Department and Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office are supporting each other on mental health crisis calls when indicated and when approved by a supervisor. Discussions are ongoing between the Sheriff's Office, Santa Barbara Police Department, and Santa Maria Police Department to establish MOUs to develop a more fluid process.

To alleviate the identified inefficiencies and expand coverage to 24/7 in all areas, an additional five co-response teams would be needed: three in North/West County and two in South County for a total of eight teams. The recommended staffing for the teams, based on the data we have presently, is a 4/10 schedule. There would be four hours a day without a co-response team, between the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am, when there are significantly fewer mental health crisis calls occurring and follow-ups are unable to be completed. Alternatively, the teams could be staffed for 12-hour shifts and provide co-response services during the hours of 2:00 am and 6:00 am. Estimated costs are as follows:

Additional Staffing and Equipment Needs for 24/7 Coverage

Staff: Behavioral Wellness	FTE	Annual Cost	Medi-Cal	Net Annual Cost
Mental Health Practitioners (1.0 FTE @ \$150K)	5	\$750,000	\$150,000	\$600,000
Co-Response Supervisor (1.0 FTE @ \$175K)	1	\$175,000		\$175,000
Total: Behavioral Wellness	6	\$925,000	\$150,000	\$775,000

Staff: Sheriff	FTE	Annual Cost	Annual Cost
Sheriff's Deputy (1.0 FTE @ \$186K)	5	\$930,000	\$930,000
Sergeant: 1 - North/West, 1 – South (1.0 FTE @ \$244K)	2	\$488,000	\$488,000
Lieutenant	1	\$322,000	\$322,000
Administrative Office Professional	1	\$107,000	\$107,000
Total: Sheriff	9	\$1,847,000	\$1,847,000

Non-Staff	Units	Total Cost	Total Cost
Vehicle: Acquisition & Equipment (\$100K per vehicle in Year 1)	2	\$200,000	\$200,000

Vehicle: Maintenance/Operating Costs (\$25K per vehicle per year beginning in Year 2)	2	\$50,000	\$50,000
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	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Total Cost (less Medi-Cal)</u>
Total Cost in Year 1	\$2,972,000	\$2,822,000
Total Cost in Year 2+	\$2,822,000	\$2,672,000