



Behavioral Health Crisis Response in Fairfax County

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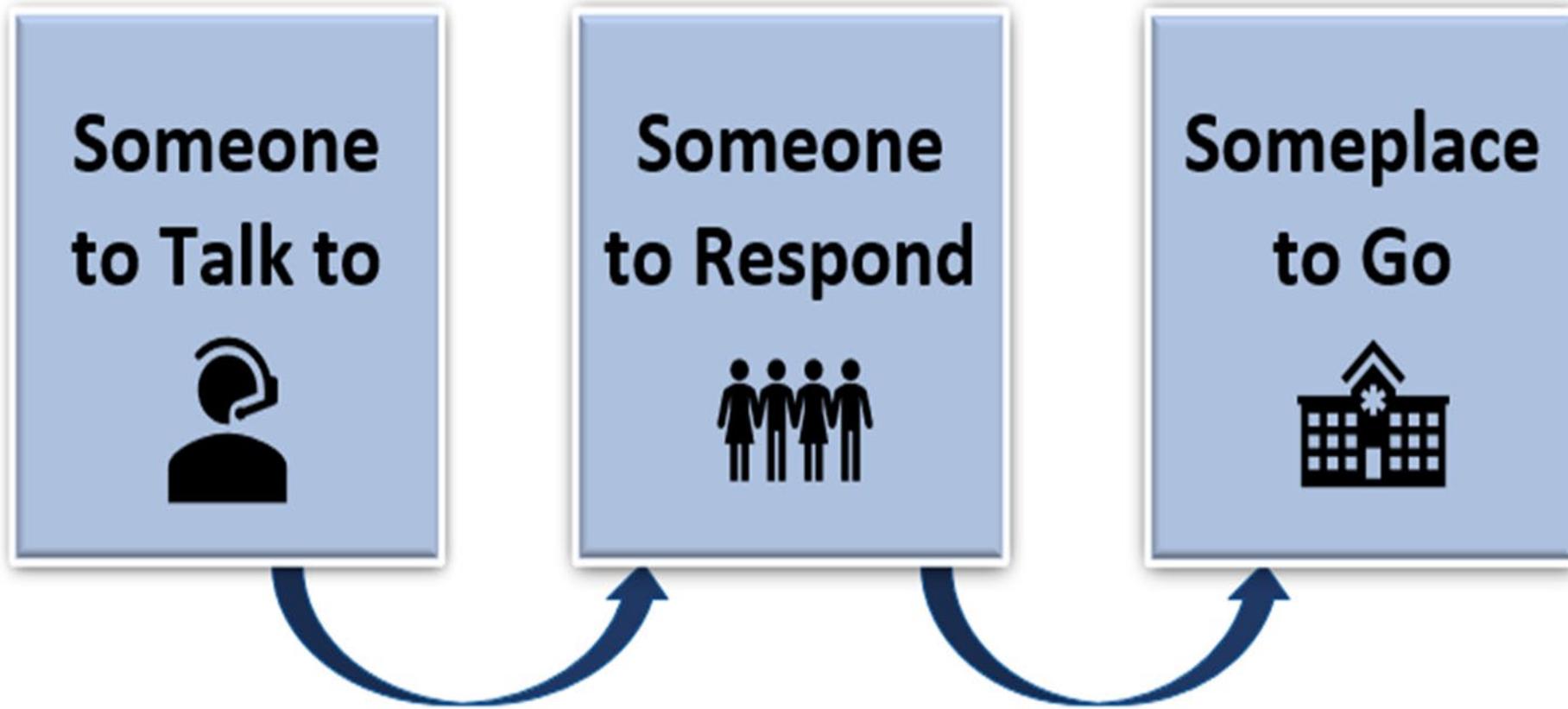
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National Crisis Services Transformation



Fairfax Behavioral Health Crisis Response System



Behavioral Health Crisis Response - State Law

- Marcus-David Peters Act (commonly known as “Marcus Alert”)
- Requires public safety and behavioral health agencies to coordinate responses to behavioral health emergencies and divert individuals to behavioral health care whenever feasible
- Aligned with the **Fairfax Behavioral Health Crisis Response System**
- Implemented locally on June 28, 2023



Behavioral Health Calls

Regional Crisis Call Center (RCCC)

- Required in the Marcus Alert law
 - Serves as a 24/7 hub connecting people with non-emergency behavioral health needs to phone support, resources, and regional mobile crisis teams to people needing/desiring in-person support
 - Also serves as 988 answering point
- The Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC) is coordinating with the RCCC to connect people to behavioral health support in non-emergency situations

Fairfax Behavioral Health Liaisons (BHLs)

- Fairfax CSB Clinicians co-located within DPSC
 - Assist in identifying potential behavioral health calls that may benefit from a behavioral health response (i.e., Co-Responder Team) and provide support related to behavioral health calls
- BHLs completed training and will start in August

Fairfax County Co-Responder Program



CIT trained police officer and CSB Crisis Intervention Specialist respond to behavioral health calls for service to:

- Increase timely on-scene assessment and de-escalation of behavioral health crises
- Increase linkages to behavioral health services and supports
- Decrease criminal justice involvement and arrests and incarceration involving behavioral health issues
- Decrease visits to emergency departments and address psychiatric bed capacity by providing less restrictive community-based alternatives

Co-Responder Program Status

- Currently, three Co-Responder Teams in the community
 - Two teams operating seven days a week during peak hours (12:00 pm- 12:00 am)
 - One team currently operating three days a week (2:00 pm- 11:00 pm)
 - Will expand to seven days a week in August
- A fourth team will launch this fall
- Team leadership continues to assess data for high-volume call times to ensure appropriate hours of operation



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Co-Responder Program Data (as of June 30, 2023)

Close to 1300 responses

Over 50% of calls were resolved in the field (no further action needed)

Approximately 30% of responses resulted in a diversion from potential arrest and/or hospitalization

26% resulted in a referral to a higher level of care

17% resulted in an Emergency Custody Order and/or Temporary Detention Order

Co-Responder Program - Next Steps

- Expansion to four teams, all operating 7 days a week
- Telehealth Pilot
 - Currently in planning phase
 - Will start in two police stations; increase connection to behavioral health services/supports
- Incorporate Peer Recovery Supports/follow up teams
- Continue to monitor data for trends and additional needs

