

Written Comments for
Regular Public Comment Section
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From: [Pat Willard](#)
To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: Community Wellness and Crisis Response pilot program
Date: Sunday, January 23, 2022 3:14:22 PM
Attachments: [SCRT IWG Issue Brief FINAL.pdf](#)

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Dear Members of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

The December 2, 2021 news release by the County of San Mateo announcing the launch of the Community Wellness and Crisis Response Pilot Project contains a description of the operation of this model:

“Once officers declare the scene safe, clinicians will assess the individual and determine the best methods of immediate care.”

In other words, when someone calls 911 about a mental health crisis situation and says that the individual has no weapon, is not violent, isn't threatening anyone, and has no criminal record, police officers will still respond. It doesn't matter whether it's an adult or a 6-year old child. The bottom line is the mental health issues are treated like a crime.

Included here is an excerpt from Redwood City's Community Satisfaction Survey of December 2021. What you see is a strong preference for non-law enforcement responses to mental health issues (as well as homelessness, which is often related).

41INT. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each of the following statements.

SCALE:	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	(Don't know)	Total Agree	Total Disagree
41. I would feel comfortable calling the police in an emergency							
Dec '21	65	23	6	6	-	87	13
42. <u>Civilian workers should respond to emergency calls involving homelessness and mental health</u>							
Dec '21	41	34	13	11	2	75	23

Also attached is a description of San Francisco's Street Crisis Response Team.

I am calling upon you to bring an end to the police with embedded clinician Community Wellness and Crisis Response Pilot Project. In its place, call for and fund the implementation of a program in Redwood City, Daly City, South San Francisco and San Mateo akin in every way to the San Francisco program which does not involve law enforcement. Invite representatives of the San Francisco Street Crisis Response team to tell you how they do it.

Cordially,

/ Pat Willard

Resident of San Mateo County for Decades
