

Written Comments for
Regular Public Comment Section
- **Consent Agenda**
- **Non Agenda Items**

From: [Cid Young](#)
To: [CEO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: Public Comment 12-5-23 -Board Leadership Rotation Policy
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 4:49:54 PM

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Public Comment Dec 5th, 2023

TO: boardfeedback@smcgov.org
PRESIDENT PINE AND SUPERVISOR MUELLER
FROM: Carlisle Ann Young Resident of Moss Beach, CA

REGARDING: ROTATION OF LEADERSHIP FOR THE 2024 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DATE DECEMBER 1ST, 2024

After watching the Board of Supervisors Meeting Video of November 7th, 2023, and listening to the discussion regarding suggested changes to the Board's leadership rotation policy, I support Supervisor Ray Mueller's suggestion which puts forth a rotation which would allow the newer Board Members an opportunity to serve as Board President sooner, rather than later, thereby allowing for their leadership growth, over the current system, which would put them at the end of the rotation. Noelia Corso, the County's first female Hispanic elected Supervisor might have to wait up to 5 years to serve as Board President. I understand that Incumbent Supervisors Canepa and Slocum have both already had the opportunity to serve as Board Presidents, and I therefore request that they be gracious, and step aside to allow an alternative rotation policy system to prevail.

Furthermore, I look forward to better Board meeting decorum in the coming year and feel that some of that has been lacking since the past Supervisors Groom and Horsley were termed out in 2022. I was proud that the late Supervisor Horsley represented us, and wish to convey my condolences this week, after hearing the sad news of Thanksgiving weekend.

Coastsiders have had a long history of supporting future Board of Supervisors Candidates, including holding a local campaign meeting in Seal Cove, several years ago, for the outgoing Board President, Supervisor Pine, when he was running for office. I therefore urge you to please do what is right for the County, and not to simply appease the status quo of "how we've always done it". The time has come to think outside the box. We all appreciate the job you all do for our communities and hope you come to the right decision.

I look forward to a prosperous and harmonious 2024.

Sincerely,

Carlisle Ann Young
San Lucas Ave.
Moss Beach, CA 94038

cid4houses@gmail.com
Moss Beach, CA 94038



November 17, 2023

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

Via email:

[Supervisor Dave Pine \(dpine@smcgov.org\)](mailto:dpine@smcgov.org)
[Supervisor Warren Slocum \(wslocum@smcgov.org\)](mailto:wslocum@smcgov.org)
[Supervisor David J. Canepa \(dcanepa@smcgov.org\)](mailto:dcanepa@smcgov.org)
[Supervisor Noelia Corzo \(ncorzo@smcgov.org\)](mailto:ncorzo@smcgov.org)
[Supervisor Ray Mueller \(rmueller@smcgov.org\)](mailto:rmueller@smcgov.org)
boardfeedback@smcgov.org

Dear San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

The ACLU – North Peninsula Chapter is grateful that Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (BHRS) has worked to create an unarmed, county-wide, crisis response program and issued [an RFP](#) to implement the San Mateo Mobile Crisis Response (SMMCR). We ask that you approve the contract. We would also like to share some concerns about the project.

The ACLU - North Peninsula Chapter (ACLU-NP) represents more than 4,000 people in San Mateo County. We are community members who seek to protect and advance the civil liberties of all residents, employees, and students in San Mateo County.

It's our understanding that the Board of Supervisors will soon vote on whether to approve the contract for SMMCR. We ask that you vote in favor of the contract and approve the related funding. When specialized, unarmed, crisis response teams are the default first responders to behavioral health emergencies, we reduce the risk of police use of force, violence against people with disabilities, and unnecessary arrests. Unarmed behavioral health crisis response is vital to improving the safety, wellness, and recovery of individuals who have suffered a crisis.

While we support the creation of the SMMCR, we also would like to share some remaining concerns. We have read the RFP carefully, and we sought assistance from the BHRS in better understanding the RFP's requirements. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, BHRS had not yet scheduled a meeting to answer our questions. We remain concerned about the following issues:

- 1. People calling an emergency line to request support should receive timely services, regardless of which emergency number they call first (“no wrong door”). It is not clear whether people calling 911 requesting assistance for a nonviolent behavioral health emergency will be connected to SMMCR service.**
 - a. Sections 3.1C and D (pp.17-18) of the RFP imply that mobile crisis teams will only be dispatched if someone calls the 10-digit county Crisis Services Hotline or 988. If

someone experiencing a behavioral health crisis calls 911, will a SMMCR provider be dispatched?

- b. The RFP also directs the awarded contractor to (at some point) develop protocols to “coordinate” with the local law enforcement’s 911 systems, but does not provide a timeline for this critical coordination,
- c. The RFP does not specify what type of coordination or integration is planned or required. The [BHRS Recommendation Report](#) from July 2022 recommends
 - i. “Mental Health” be added to 911 dispatcher protocols and
 - ii. There should be a mental health integrated dispatch service.
- d. We are concerned that any delay in coordinating the two crisis dispatch systems could limit the effectiveness of SMMCR and put the health of community members who need this service at risk. We urge you to monitor the program for implementation of this crucial component and set an expectation that it be completed within six months.
- e. BHRS called upon the Peninsula Anti-Racist Coalition (PARC) to provide guidance. PARC’s research indicates the following:
 - i. Only 17% of Americans are familiar with 988.
 - ii. Just 4% are *very familiar* with 988.
 - iii. 2 in 5 Americans don’t know what to do if someone they love is experiencing a mental health crisis or suicidal.
 - iv. For several decades to come 911 operators will continue to get calls from the public about nonviolent people acting strange or having a mental health crisis. We do not want armed police to be the first to answer these calls, or have a delay while operators transfer calls to 988.

2. The RFP required response time of 60 minutes is significantly higher than the recommended best practices for crisis response.

- a. The RFP requires the proposer to provide six (6) teams for the entire county (Section 3.1A, p. 16). The RFP also indicates that the mobile response team should arrive within 60 minutes in urban areas and within 90 minutes in rural areas. (Section 3.1J, p.27): For any crisis, this is an unusually long wait time. Does the Board of Supervisors or BHRS plan to supplement the funding for this project to increase the number of provider teams and decrease the response time to 15 minutes or less?
- b. The CARES program in Half Moon Bay [boasts a response time of 8.5 minutes](#). San Francisco’s Street Crisis Response Team [claims a response time of 15 minutes](#).
- c. The Hartford, Connecticut HEARTeam Clinician-led program has the following response times:

- i. Time to On Route = median 4 minutes,
- ii. Time to Arriving On-Scene = median 14 minutes,
- iii. Time Spent On-Scene (Arrived-to-Cleared) = median 11 minutes,
- iv. Time from Call Cleared (Call Received to Call Cleared) = median 29 minutes,
- v. 74% of on-scene responses are ≤ 20 minutes duration.

3. The BHRC Recommendation report stated that teams should consist of a clinician, peer support, or community members with knowledge of veteran services, AND a paramedic/EMT. It appears that the RFP does not require a paramedic/EMT as a member of the response team.

- a. The BHRC Recommendation report stated that teams should consist of a clinician, peer support, or community members with knowledge of veteran services *and* a paramedic/EMT. It is our understanding that the SMMCR teams would not be mandated to include either a paramedic/EMT or a Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts (LPHA). Is that correct?

The Board has an important role to play in ensuring that SMMCR service works for all San Mateo County residents. As part of the implementation process, we ask that you be proactive and find the answers to these questions. Under your leadership, our County has the privilege to learn from others and find a solution that can alleviate pressure on our law enforcement officers and mental health professionals. More importantly, you can ensure that individuals who seek help or need it in situations which can be a matter of life and death, will get the help they need.

Thank you for considering our input. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us at NPenACLU@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

The ACLU – North Peninsula Chapter

From: [Natalie Geise](#)
To: [CEO BoardFeedback](#); [Vanessa Castro](#)
Subject: Alpine Road Corridor and Project Initiation (Piers-Alpine Access / Alpine) Intersection
Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2023 10:10:46 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee,

We are reaching out as employees of SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory*, located in San Mateo County in relation to work on the Alpine Road Corridor and Project Initiation.

As you may know, there are two entrances to SLAC, one on Alpine Road (San Mateo County maintained) and one on Sand Hill Road (Menlo Park maintained). At the entrance on Alpine Road, many employees who bike and walk feel the need to a) continue up to a pedestrian crossing or b) to use the Sand Hill Road entrance which while being along a High-Crash Corridor (1) is felt to be safer than the Alpine Road entrance.

We understand that the County studied the intersection by that entrance (Piers-Alpine Access / Alpine) in their Alpine Road Traffic Corridor Study. The 2017 Alpine Road Corridor Study Final Report, Section 5.6 (2) found that the **solution requested by the community (a traffic signal) was discarded** due to “degradation to the level of service”, meaning the estimates of delays caused to vehicular traffic. This is extremely disappointing and we want to **re-emphasize that pedestrians and bikers are delaying their travel by 5-10 min each way to avoid this intersection and protect their safety**. Additionally, we are disappointed to see that the recommendations have not been fully implemented yet to protect bikers and pedestrians (3), and at this intersection, we are waiting for a Pending Surfacing Project to create left turn lanes and bike slots.

With the Project Initiation, we ask the County to revisit the analysis and recommendation regarding **installation of a traffic signal** and otherwise swiftly **implement the recommendations that protect bikers and pedestrians**. More broadly, we urge the County to **prioritize the safety** of those using the roads (whether walking, biking/scootering, using public transportation or driving) over allowing cars to move more quickly to their destinations in future studies, so that the community requests are not so easily discarded in the future.

Sincerely,
Natalie Geise, on behalf of the 21 SLAC employees signed below
*Our views represent that of the undersigned, not of our employer.

Alex Wallace: 13 year San Mateo County resident and employee at SLAC.

Ann Wang, Menlo Park resident and postdoc from Stanford working at SLAC.

Paul Jones: Menlo Park resident and employee at SLAC.

“I have stopped cycling to work due to road safety concerns, specifically the lack of protection for cyclists crossing Sand Hill Road and Alpine Road. I have also witnessed several near-misses in the area around the SLAC Alpine Gate, as pedestrians and cyclists attempt to cross to/from the Stanford Dish area.”

Brendan O'Shea: SLAC Employee, San Mateo County Resident

"Making a left turn onto Alpine Road from Ansel Lane is a harrowing experience on a bike. During rush hour in the evenings the traffic heading towards the 280 (southbound on Alpine Road) is bumper to bumper and I have to ride my bike into that traffic to encourage traffic to stop and let cross traffic through. The backup is caused by the stop sign at Alpine Road and the 280, so it doesn't affect flow to the 280 if cars wait at Ansel Lane for 30 seconds every five minutes to let cross traffic through."

Charles Troxel: Menlo Park resident and employee at SLAC

Silke Nelson: Employee at SLAC, San Mateo County resident

Junyang Xiang: Employee at SLAC

"Given the speed of the vehicles at this "intersection" as well as the blind curves, having a crossing would greatly make this area safer."

Stefan Moeller: Employee at SLAC

"There is a group of runners at SLAC who regularly use the Alpine Gate to cross over to the Dish trail. Attempting to cross over Alpine Road is a nerve-wracking undertaking each time and it feels not safe."

Anthony Fong: Employee at SLAC

"The Sand Hill entrance to SLAC requires bicyclists to cross two lanes of high speed traffic to access the protected left turn lane to the SLAC main gate."

Raybel Almeida: SLAC Employee

"The lack of a designated pedestrian crossing on Alpine Road between SLAC Alpine Access Road and Stanford Dish Trail, Piers Lane, forces pedestrians who use the trail and cyclist on other side of road to rush across the road at different unprotected points, often only narrowly escaping being hit by cars moving very fast around blind corners from both road directions. Something as simple as some painted stripes on the ground and a signs warning drivers to lookout for pedestrians will encourage drivers to reduce their speed around blind corners and will make crossing the road at this intersection much safer and orderly for pedestrians and cyclists"

Natalie Geise: Palo Alto resident and student/employee at SLAC for 5+ years

"I bike to work from Palo Alto so I typically use the Sand Hill Road entrance. However, there are times I could use Alpine Road to access restaurants and stores (grocery, etc at Ladera) after work, but avoid doing so because Alpine Road is very difficult to navigate as a cyclist."

Ryan McClanahan: Palo Alto resident and Employee at SLAC

"I routinely bike to work from Palo Alto to SLAC. I use Sandhill because there are wide designated bike lanes. However, I see daily mis-use of the bike lanes by motorists, from pulling into the lane too early for a right turn, to parking in the bike lane and forcing me and other cyclists into the street or sidewalk. Protecting the bike lanes with concrete bollards, or a full curb, would be a huge boon to bicycle commuters, and would assist with car traffic as more people would commute by bicycle because they feel safe doing so. The break away flex posts are not enough, because drivers can still drive through these and hit a cyclist"

Eric Konzelmann: Employee at SLAC

Shamin Chowdhury: Employee at SLAC

Christina Eshelman: Employee at SLAC

Alysson Loo: Employee at SLAC

Leslie Hsiao: Employee at SLAC

Zachary Domke: Employee at SLAC

Michael Ehrlichman: Employee at SLAC

Giulia Lanza: Employee at SLAC

Gabe Shutt: Professional Bicycle Courier

1.

[Staff report to the Menlo Park City Council on October 24, 2023](#)

2.

[Alpine Road Traffic Corridor Study](#): Alpine Road Corridor Study Final Report 03212017 with Appendices

3.

[Alpine Road Traffic Corridor Study](#): Task Status Update-September 2021

4.

[Presentation on the 2023 Work Plan and Update on Additional County of San Mateo Public Works Projects with Bicycle and Pedestrian Components](#), BPAC Meeting April 20, 2023

From: [Martha Pahnke](#)
To: [Rob Bartoli](#); [CEO BoardFeedback](#); broadmoorvlgdemands@yahoo.com; [Martha Pahnke](#)
Subject: RE: Sustaining the Broadmoor Police Protection District
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 5:54:08 PM

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November 15, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Martha Pahnke, and I am writing this email in an effort to address the issue of maintaining the Broadmoor Police Protection District for the residents of Broadmoor Village, California.

I have been a resident of Broadmoor Village for 34 years. In that time, I have never felt unsafe, and I believe this is due to the existence of our police department, and it's responsiveness to the needs of the Broadmoor Village residents.

I can only report on my personal experiences when I have had need to call upon the police department. When my house was once burglarized many years ago while I was out of town, the department responded immediately to take the report. I had another reason to call upon the Broadmoor police when a menacing party got out of control in a residence across the street from my home. Once again their response time was immediate, and the police officers were able to successfully disperse the party goers. Their calm professionalism was in evidence when they got people to leave the area without the need for confrontation or damage to property.

There have also been less urgent matters where I have had need of police services. One concerned an open garage door in the middle of the night. (I'm embarrassed to admit that this happened on more than one occasion where I forgot to close my garage door.) Each time when a passing patrol noticed, they would first check the premises, and then wake me up to close the garage door. Since my home was once burglarized, I would request passing calls whenever I had occasion to be out of town. On routine patrol, an officer(s) would check the premises to make sure nothing was amiss. On a micro level, such personal assistance provided by the Broadmoor Police Department is no less important to the safety and well being of our community, and something that would or could not be replicated if an outside agency were to assume policing responsibilities for Broadmoor. On a macro level, our world is in turmoil due to rapidly changing social norms and economic instability, and because of this, our community has been impacted by crime of a more serious nature which originates from surrounding cities. Our department is needed now more than ever to combat this threat.

Please consider providing funding assistance to sustain a vital community service which has served Broadmoor for over seven decades, and hopefully will continue to

serve and protect into the future. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Martha Pahnke

Broadmoor Village Resident

Email: livingnexttosanfrancisco@yahoo.com

From: [Elaine Salinger](#)
To: [CEO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: Sheriffs dept oversight
Date: Monday, November 27, 2023 9:01:51 PM

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Hello Board of Supervisors,

I am a member of the Sheriff's Dept CARE group and i am also the SMC BPAC chair. It is my experience that Sheriff Corpus and her team have been answering questions and transparent during the CARE meetings. It is also my experience that as a result of these meetings, Captain Fox scheduled meetings with all of the deputies during roll call meetings so that I could have conversations and offer presentations about cycling safety. These meetings are an example of Sheriff Corpus' commitment to making changes that are benefitting the county.

I urge you to allow her to make the changes she promised and not tie her hands with civilian oversight and subpoena power.

When has this ever worked? As far as i know, it has never benefited public safety. Never. It is expensive. I am concerned that this will make it More Difficult to recruit new deputies and take away beneficial community programs. And I am concerned that it will deter deputies from seeking mental health care, one of the campaign promises Corpus made.

Honestly, if Bolanos were still our sheriff, I would not take this position. But I believe (because I am seeing it) that we need to let Corpus continue making the positive changes she is making.

Elaine Salinger, San Mateo County Chapter Leader

Citizens Climate Lobby

650-533-3539

Written Public
Comment(s) for **Item No. 2**

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Stephanie Reyes <sreyes.bayarea@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:10 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Comments on mental health crisis mobile response proposal

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for approving the Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Commission's recommendations for Clinician-led Mental Health Crisis Mobile Response Teams in San Mateo County in October 2022 and for holding a study session on mobile mental health emergency response models.

There are several steps that must be taken to maximize the benefit of the proposed San Mateo Mental Crisis Response (SMMCR) service:

It is essential that the SMMCR be available not only when people dial 988 but also when they dial 911. Even with a great public information campaign around 988, people will undoubtedly continue to dial 911 when they see a situation where a person is having a mental health crisis. When that person is not a danger to themselves or to others, the appropriate responders are the SMMCR, not police.

It is critical that 911 dispatchers be trained to appropriately triage mental health calls and send the SMMCR rather than armed police whenever possible.

It is also important for the SMMCR to have staff with appropriate skills. Staff should consist of a licensed clinician, peer support specialist, or a pair of certified peers.

Finally, response time for such calls is also important, both to address the mental health needs of the individual in a timely fashion and to build trust in SMMCR with the public. The goal for response time should be no more than 20 minutes. Similarly, to build trust in the program and for the safety of the clinicians as they approach individuals in distress, the program should have fully stocked vans identified with the program's logo (not, for example, clinicians' personal cars) and should provide and expect the response team to wear clothing with the program's logo.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Reyes
2831 Olivares Ln
San Mateo, CA 94403

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Neela Patel <neela.patel@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 10:40 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Cc: NPenACLU@gmail.com
Subject: Dec 5th Study Session: Mobile Mental Health Emergency Response Models

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear SMC Board of Supervisors,

As a member of ACLU NorCal and Belmont Neighbors Against Racism, I am writing to urge you implement a county-wide, 24/7 non-armed mobile mental health crisis response program so that the people who live in my community receive access to compassionate and high quality care when they are in need. I have several friends whose children (late teens to mid-twenties) have mental health issues. The parents live in constant fear that if their child has an episode while outside the home they could end up in jail without access to care or even dead like Chinedu Okebi. We know from data from other communities in CA and across the nation that when specialized, unarmed crisis response teams are the first responders for behavioral health emergencies, there is a measurable and meaningful decrease in the risk of police using force and of un-necessary arrests.

A non-armed mental health crisis response team should be available to people who call either 911 or 988. People calling an emergency line to request life-saving support should receive timely and appropriate services, regardless of which emergency number they call first (“there should be no wrong door”).

Thank you for implementing a non-armed mobile mental health response program across San Mateo County. It will make our community a better and safer place for all.

Best regards,

Neela Patel

2712 Monserat Ave

Belmont, CA 94002

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Julia Harkola <julia@harkolas.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 2, 2023 8:02 AM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Mental Health Mobile Response

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Hi,

I've been a San Mateo County resident since 1995 and applaud the Board of Supervisors' consideration of a county-wide, non-armed mobile mental health crisis response program. I heartily support this program and encourage implementation to evaluate. I believe this is the right direction to go to provide the appropriate support for our county residents.

Thank you,
Julia Harkola
San Carlos

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Cathy Baird <cathy_baird@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 2, 2023 3:21 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Item 2: Study Session: Mobile Mental Health Emergency Response Models

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Supervisors:

Thank you for offering the study session to consider mobile responses to mental health emergencies.

I believe that it is important to implement a county-wide, 24/7 mental health crisis response program to ensure that everyone in the county receives equal access to the care, compassion, and qualified support that they need. When specialized, UNARMED crisis response teams are the default first responders to mental health emergencies, we reduce the risk of police use of force, violence against people with disabilities, and unnecessary arrests.

A non-armed mental health crisis response program should include the Behavioral Health Commission's recommendation that these teams include an EMT and either a peer support specialist or a licensed mental health clinician.

In addition, this kind of response team should be available to people who call either 911 or 988 to report a mental health emergency.

Let's avoid tragedies in which people in crisis end up worse off when they call for help. Even better, let's help them get started on a path to becoming better off as a result of reaching out.

Cathy Baird
Showing Up for Racial Justice San Mateo
Resident of San Carlos

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Ann Myers <akdmyers@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2023 5:15 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Dec. 5, 2023 Mobile Mental Health Emergency Response Models study session

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Ann Myers and I live in Redwood City. Thank you for offering this study session to consider mobile responses to mental health emergencies.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to implement a county-wide, 24/7 non-armed mobile mental health crisis response program to ensure that our neighbors who need community support receive equal access to the care, compassion, and properly qualified support that they deserve. With so many people experiencing mental health challenges in our community, I know I will feel safer calling for help for someone if I know they will not be met by armed officers.

When specialized, unarmed, crisis response teams are the default first responders to behavioral health emergencies, we reduce the risk of police use of force, violence against people with disabilities, and unnecessary arrests.

As you consider a non-armed mental health crisis response program, please bear in mind the Behavioral Health Commission's recommendations, including:

- These teams should include an EMT and either a peer support specialist or a licensed mental health clinician.
- A non-armed mental health crisis response team should be available to people who call either 911 or 988 ("there should be no wrong door").
- 911 Dispatch needs to be modernized to predictably match the caller with an appropriate emergency response, including a non-armed crisis response.
- A non-armed mental health crisis response program should be sufficiently staffed so that help can get to the person in crisis within 15 minutes.

I believe these recommendations are key to programs like this being successful, and I believe having a successful non-armed mental health crisis response program in San Mateo County is a key step in ensuring the health and well-being of all of us.

Thank you.

--Ann Myers

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Pat Willard <pat.willard@thelarchgroup.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2023 5:30 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Study Session: Mobile Mental Health Emergency Response Models

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

Regarding the agenda item Study Session: Mobile Mental Health Emergency Response Models.

While Peninsula Anti-Racism Coalition (PARC) appreciates the work our County Behavioral Health Services has been doing to create a clinician-led mental health mobile response program, our belief is that the program falls short of expectations.

Upon reading the San Mateo County BHRS RFP, and information provided to us by Denver STAR's program leadership, we find that the RFP asks for a much narrower set of services. See the table below.

By limiting its program to 988 calls, which are appropriate for helping someone with depression, our Behavioral Health Services' forthcoming program leaves out items two (2) through seven (7) in the right column of the table. Two through seven call for mental health clinical first responders (without law enforcement) to be deployed by the county's 911 call centers. What you'll observe in the scenarios in the right column, callers are not the people who will ever call 988, because they are not the people having the mental health crisis.

<i>Comparison of Services Provided</i>	
San Mateo County Behavioral Health Services	Denver STAR
Mobile Crisis Response RFP	(Provide to Peninsula Anti-Racism Coalition Research Team)
1) Suicidal Person: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caller is feeling depressed and wants to talk to someone.• Caller has a friend who is very depressed and has mentioned committing suicide or made comments indicating they think about ending it. The caller would like someone to go check on their friend.	1) Suicidal Person: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caller is feeling depressed and wants to talk to someone.• Caller has a friend who is very depressed and has mentioned committing suicide or made comments indicating they think about ending it. The caller would like someone to go check on their friend. 2) Disturbance/Family Disturbance:

• Caller reports a person in a grocery store parking lot yelling at passing cars.

• A person calls reporting their child is refusing to go to school and this has caused a verbal argument.

3) Assist:

• Caller lost their bus ticket to another city several miles away and is stranded.

• Caller says they lost their job and the family has no food.

4) Indecent Exposure:

• The caller sees a person urinating in an alley.

• There is a member of the unhoused community sitting on the sidewalk and their pants are down.

5) Intoxicated Person:

• A bartender calls and advises there is a person outside their door who should probably be taken to Detox. The individual is awake and not injured, however the caller is unsure if the person will voluntarily go to Detox.

• The clerk at the convenience store reports there is a drunk person who is hanging around the parking lot of the business and when the clerk offered to call Detox, they refused.

6) Narcotics:

• A caller reports seeing a person in an alley smoking a glass pipe.

• A caller reports a person smoking marijuana in City Park.

7) Trespass:

• Caller says someone is occupying a vacant house.

• Caller has someone sitting at a table outside of their business and the business owns the property.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caller is an employee of a fast-food restaurant. Someone has locked themselves in the bathroom and will not come out.
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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cordially,

Pat Willard
Founding Member,
Peninsula Anti-Racism Coalition

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Jen Selby <jenselby@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2023 9:16 PM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Mobile Mental Health Emergency Response Models 12/5/2023

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Hello. My name is Jen Selby and I live in San Bruno.

Thank you for offering this study session to consider mobile responses to mental health emergencies. I'm sorry that I am unable to attend at the time of the session.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to implement a county-wide, 24/7 non-armed mobile mental health crisis response program to ensure that our neighbors who need community support receive equal access to the care, compassion, and properly qualified support that they deserve.

I would personally hesitate to call for help if someone was having a mental health crisis, worried that I would make the situation worse instead of better. I doubt that I am alone in this. We need a better solution, one that can help reduce the stress on both first responders and the families and friends of those with severe mental health issues.

A non-armed mental health crisis response team should be available to people who call either 911 or 988. People calling an emergency line to request life-saving support should receive timely and appropriate services, regardless of which emergency number they call first ("there should be no wrong door").

This program should be sufficiently staffed so that help can get to the person in crises within 15 minutes, which is a recommended best practice.

Thank you.

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Yedida Kanfer <yedidakanfer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 10:24 AM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Mobile Mental Health Emergency Response Models - Dec 5 study session

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

My name is Yedida Kanfer, and I live in Foster City.

Thank you for offering this study session to consider mobile responses to mental health emergencies.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to implement a county-wide, 24/7 non-armed mobile mental health crisis response program to ensure that our neighbors who need community support receive equal access to the care, compassion, and properly qualified support that they deserve.

I know that if I needed help, I would be much more likely to respond better to a trained mental health professional than to a police officer. If the latter came to my door, even if they were really nice, I can imagine freaking out, and being worried that I did something wrong.

When specialized, unarmed, crisis response teams are the default first responders to behavioral health emergencies, we reduce the risk of police use of force, violence against people with disabilities, and unnecessary arrests.

Thanks so much,
Yedida

CEO_BoardFeedback

From: Julie Starobin <juliestarobin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 10:32 AM
To: CEO_BoardFeedback
Subject: Study Session 12/5. 1 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

I am writing to encourage the Board of Supervisors to implement a mobile mental health crisis response program that is county-wide, non-armed and available 24 hours/day. This will ensure that everyone receives equal access to help. The use of unarmed crisis response teams will reduce the risk of police use of force and unnecessary arrests; also reducing the potential for violence against people with disabilities. A program in Colorado, Denver Star, has a model that would work in San Mateo.

There needs to be a 911 option to send a "non-police-involved" team if someone has called in a nonviolent behavioral emergency. A San Mateo Mental Crisis Response Team could consist of a licensed clinician and a peer support person. It is not necessary to send armed police first.

Please adopt a new program that will address mental health crises in a compassionate and effective manner.

Thank you,
Julie Starobin, Pacifica