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To: [CMO BoardFeedback](#)
Subject: public comment on agenda item 5 for Jan. 12, 2021 meeting
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I urge you to use the pilot program described in agenda item 5 to create a crisis response team composed solely of mental health clinicians, social workers, and emergency medical support, without involving police. These professionals by their training are better suited than police to de-escalate crisis situations and provide the appropriate care and services for the person in crisis.

A June 2020 [report and survey](#) by Data for Progress and The Justice Collaborative Institute found broad public support for crisis response by mental health professionals rather than police. There are several programs being launched both locally and nationwide to form response teams that do not include police. In addition to the [CAHOOTS](#) program in Eugene, please consider the programs in [Santa Clara County](#), [San Francisco](#), and [Denver](#) as examples on which the San Mateo County pilot program can be modeled.

The report by Data for Progress and The Justice Collaborative Institute concludes that “[t]o be successful, these crisis response teams should operate independently of the criminal legal system, include both emergency and preventative services, and be fully funded to accomplish their mission.” Please use the resources being designated for the pilot program to structure the program following these three criteria for success.

Thank you,
Clara Jaeckel
Redwood City