Entering a New Era for Policing and Mental Illness

Crisis Response Team
Mesa Police Department
Learning Objectives

• Understand the need of a specialized response from law enforcement in regard to the growing demands from crisis and mental health issues.
• Explain the concepts behind CIT programs and how they can address mental illness at a patrol response level.
• Identify the need for specialized units, such as Mesa's CRT, and explain how they can be incorporated into your department or jurisdiction.
• Describe the partners needed to form a successful collaboration between criminal justice agencies and mental health providers.
In 2016, 18.3% of the US population was diagnosed with some form of mental illness
- 44 million US Adults

In 2016, 4.2% of the US population was diagnosed with a serious mental illness
- 10 million US Adults
- 20,000 in Maricopa County

Children are difficult to determine due to diagnosis guidelines, but the estimate is over 20% of the US population between 13-18 years old.

Police struggle to identify how many calls are related to mental health.

People who live with mental illness are 8 times more likely to be jailed.
Mesa’s Crisis Intervention Team
Mesa’s Crisis Intervention Team

- Established in 2004
- Overall active CIT member increased from 110 to 179 since 2015.
  - 91 in patrol which makes up 23%
    • The CIT national standard is 20-25%
  - Currently 179 active throughout the department.
- Full time CIT Coordinator
Crisis Intervention Team Training

40 hours of advanced training
• Understanding Psychiatric Disorders
• Traumatic Brain Injury
• Substance Abuse
• Dementia
• Resource Utilization
  • Homelessness
  • Crisis Services
  • Petition Process

Great drill. Students wear a mental illness/life challenge labels & others are instructed to interact accordingly.
Crisis Intervention Team Training

• Communication Techniques and De-escalation practices
  – Taught by FBI trained negotiators

• Reality Based Scenario Training
  – Evaluated by law enforcement and mental health experts
  • Bipolar
  • Autism
  • Post Traumatic Stress
  • Dementia
  • Schizophrenia
  • Depression

Crisis Response Team
Mesa Police Department
Establishment of the Crisis Response Team
Mesa Police Crisis Response Team

VISION
The vision of the Mesa Police Department’s Crisis Response Team (CRT) is to save lives and improve the quality of life for the individuals in our community.

MISSION
Through a team approach and with community partnerships we provide first class services to individuals in crisis with the primary goal of safely resolving their situation for long term quality of life improvement because, “Knowledge is power.”
Goals of the Crisis Response Team

- Improve Community Service
- Mitigate Liability
- Improve Public Safety
- Improve Collaboration with Mental Health Service Providers
- Reduce Use of Force Incidents
- Reduce Calls for Service
Crisis Response Team Members and Responsibilities

- Team Responsibilities
  - Service of mental health detainers
  - Monitoring persons with mental illness or cognitive impairment who pose a threat to themselves or others in effort to divert from judicial system.
  - Partnering with mental health providers, the court system, and the jail systems
    - The Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) population spend 30 more days in jail than the rest of the population on average.

*Training for CRT detectives includes proficiency in CIT, all advanced CIT, and FBI negotiator Training.*
Collaboration for Success

Mental Health Providers

– Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MMIC)
  • The regional behavior health authority in Maricopa county

– Local Partners
  • CBI
  • MARC Resources
  • Partners in Recovery
  • Terros
  • Empact-LaFrontera
  • A New Leaf
  • Chicanos Por La Causa
  • Crisis Response Network
  • Southwest Network
  • ConnectionsAZ
  • Veteran’s Administration
  • AHCCCS

– Monthly meetings with Maricopa Crisis Community
Collaboration for Success

Community and Mental Health Advocates

– Mesa Police Mental Health Advisory Board
– Mesa Police Mental Heath Fair Held Annually
– NAMI- National Alliance for Mental Illness
  • Provides “In Our Own Voice” Presentations for basic academy
– Arizona Mental Health and Criminal Justice Coalition
– Autism Society of Greater Phoenix
– “Be Safe the Movie” Presentations
– CIT Program Public Webpage with Resources
– Presentations at local and state conferences
– Local Client Advisory Councils at clinics
Collaboration for Success

Courts, Jails, and Probation Department

– Direct Communication between Mesa City Jail, CoreCivic, and CRT.
  • CRT helps facilitate COT orders and service of mental health detainers
– Partnership with Maricopa Adult Probation on cases with a mental health and criminal nexus.
– Assist Mesa City Court, including the Rule 11 court and Veteran’s Court
  • Working with Mesa City Prosecutor to establish a mental health/homeless court in the City of Mesa.
  • Assist with Rule 11 clients in need of emergency petition
– Collaboration with Maricopa County Attorney on firearms cases on those documented as incompetent or SMI.
“To know even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

Detective Amanda Stamps
Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator
480-644-3761
Amanda.stamps@mesaaz.gov

Detective Mark Garera
Crisis Response Team
480-644-2638
Mark.garera@mesaaz.gov