



Mental Health First Responder Options

Background

- City of San Leandro's Human Services Gap Analysis Identified Need in the Mid-to-Severe Mental Health Services
- Build-up of Services for the Severe Mental Health
- Existing General Mental Health Services



Why the First Responder Model with Fire?

- Requests for mental health/behavioral health assistance received through 9-1-1 Communication Center
- Highly experienced in varied and dynamic environments
- Restricted in requests for medical/paramedic services and treatments, destinations
- Available for call out assistance, assistance to other agencies and providers



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General Definitions

- A mild mental health problem is when a person has a small number of symptoms that have a limited effect on their daily life
- A moderate mental health problem is when a person has more symptoms that can make their daily life much more difficult than usual
- Serious mental illness is defined as a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder resulting in serious functional impairment

Guiding Principles for Options

- System of Care
 - Non-Episodic Care
 - Health Home
 - Access to Regular Care



- Linkages to Safety Net Clinics and Community Level Beds
- Ongoing Communications with All Mobile Teams



First Responder Mental Health Options

- All of the Options include a Paramedic from the Alameda County Fire Department (ACFD)
- Option #1-Paramedic with Nurse Practitioner (NP) with Psych Training
- NPs have greater independent health authority
- Nurses are permitted to conduct follow-up care

Option #2: ACFD Paramedic and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)

- A Request for Proposal (RFP) to San Leandro-serving FQHCs to provide the NP function.
- This would provide a direct connection to the clinics to create ongoing primary care functions.



Option #3 ACFD Paramedic with Alameda Health System

- Alameda Health System has agreed to work with us to *possibly* contribute the time of an NP
- This would provide a direct connection with primary care clinics and hospitals as necessary



ALAMEDA
HEALTH SYSTEM

Option #4 ACFD Paramedic with NP Contractor

- Staff has had recent conversations with non-profit firms specializing in street health and has NPs with psych training
- Adds more flexibility and able to start on the team quickly



Additional Services

- MH1 to provide community engagement services with a talk line, training volunteers and separate phone number access
- Request additional Alameda County Mobile Crisis Teams (MCT) for mid-County



■ Recommendation

- ACFD Paramedic with a Contracted NP with Mental Health Training
- Contracting will Enable Faster Implementation and Identification of Qualified NPs
- Require Community-level Settings Referrals as People are Case Managed
- Contract MH1 for Community Engagement Services and Connect Them to ACFD/NP unit
- Advocate for the Expansion of Alameda County MCTs into Mid-County



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Financial Considerations

- ACFD will Contribute a Paramedic(s)
- ACFD will Contribute a Vehicle(s)
- The City will Contract with NPs/MH1
- Overall Cost Dependent on Yet-to-be-Determined Operational Hours and Final Model
- Continue to Seek Funding from the County



Questions