WHAT IS THE COST TO KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY SAFE?

SPECIALIZED ASSISTANCE FOR EVERYONE
VOICES

OUR NATION & STATE

• 2020 there were 1,020 fatal police involved shootings, the rate of fatal police shootings among Black Americans was much higher than that for any other ethnicity
• Nation reeling from the George Floyd murder

OUR COMMUNITY

• Petaluma Youth for CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets)
• City Council wanted action quickly and understood the need for specialized responses to requests for assistance related to mental health, substance use and homelessness
A representative sample of 250 calls was reviewed by PPD management and CRISIS’ consultant, each call was assigned a prospective response model.

**Mobile Crisis Response** – calls where a mobile crisis team could respond instead of police, 47.6% (118)

**Conventional Response** – where a mobile crisis team is dispatched due to caution indicators, 22% (56)

**Co-Response Model** – police respond and hand over to crisis team after PD clears for safety, 15.2% (27)

**Possible Diversion** – more information is needed to know if it could go to a mobile crisis team, 15.6% (39*)

*Of these 39 calls, 36 were, “suspicious persons.”*
LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS

Existing programs already:
• Petaluma People Services Center
• Sober Circle
• PPSC Youth Diversion
• Police and Mental Health collaboration
• Homelessness including prevention and intervention
WHY CRISIS INTERVENTION?

- Saves thousands on unnecessary 5150’s
- Reduces health care costs
- Police Department response times improve due to reduced call burden
- When not responding to 911 calls, connecting to our community building a stronger network of services
- Can provide first aid and medical checks for those in our community who cannot access medical services
- Connection to PPSC programs, costing our whole community less with upstream prevention programs
- Able to directly refer into existing programs
SAFE TEAM LAUNCHED

• Launched in July of 2021 the City of Petaluma’s Partnership with Petaluma People Services Center the goal of the SAFE team is to address crisis response, prevention and intervention for our most vulnerable community members experiencing mental health issues, substance abuse issues and homelessness. In November 2021 launched in Rohnert Park and Cotati.

• The team is made up of civilian first responders, who will respond to and proactively address calls for service that have traditionally (and unnecessarily) burdened law enforcement, emergency medical services and health care providers.
SOUTHERN SONOMA COUNTY MODEL

FIRE/EMS

Petaluma Fire Department in the three years prior to SAFE Launch, respond to 1-2 calls a day for services with a primary complaint being substance use.

DIVERSION

Early estimates were a diversion of 4% of calls for service to the SAFE Team, and after 6 months of operation that number was predicted to grow to 6.25% for community-initiated calls. It was estimated that in one year 2,265 calls would be dispatched to the SAFE Team.

RESPONSE TO SUICIDE

Law enforcement agencies have been tasked with the difficult task of responding to people experiencing suicidal thoughts or making suicidal actions. Petaluma Valley does not have an emergency psychiatric unit.

Current Sonoma County allows for only law enforcement and specialty trained health works can make a 5150 hold

MENTAL HEALTH

- Community Needs
- Reducing Stigma
- Prevention & Early Intervention
- Substance Use, Intoxication and Addiction
- Homelessness
- Access
SAFE team service calls by request type:

- Counseling Request: 262
- Public assists: 2,697
- Suicidal subjects: 75
- Welfare checks: 1,053

Outcomes:

- Assisted: 2,610
- Transported: 573

Diversion:

- ED Diversion: 119
- Jail Diversion: 69

Transports:

- Crisis Stabilization Unit: 54
- Hospitals: 178
First Year Total Costs Included Start-Up Costs: $1,322,234
• General Fund
• State of California Crisis Care Mobile Units Program
• Sonoma County Tax

• Estimated On-going Annual Cost: $1,144,234

• Hourly cost per SAFE Team: $157.00
THANK YOU!

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