



CITY OF SAN MATEO

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Agenda Report

Agenda Number: 21

Section Name: {{section.name}}

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TO: City Council

FROM: Drew Corbett, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Police Department

MEETING DATE: January 19, 2021

SUBJECT:

Community Wellness and Crisis Response Team Mental Health Partnership – Agreement

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution to approve an appropriation in the amount of \$19,235, to the Police Department's 2020-21 operating budget and approve a two-year agreement to authorize the Police Department to collaborate with the police departments of South San Francisco, Redwood City, Daly City, and the San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services in the formation of a mental health partnership crisis response program, with a total cost over the two years of \$156,182; authorize the Chief of Police to execute the agreement in substantially the form presented.

BACKGROUND:

Recent events have highlighted community needs related to optimal response to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. Historically, due to a lack of behavioral health resources and services, law enforcement has been tasked as first responders to individuals experiencing such crises. This deficit in resources has limited the level and quality of care that a person in crisis receives and can further strain the relationship between law enforcement and community. Law enforcement response to behavioral health crises calls occasionally has devastating results, such as trauma, injury, or death. Lastly, linking persons with mental health diagnoses to the justice system is often ineffective, inefficient, and would be more appropriately resolved through the behavioral health care system. For all these reasons, the community has reconsidered how to best provide optimal care to a vulnerable population and properly utilize law enforcement resources. The result is the Community Wellness and Crisis Response Team (CWCRT) program.

The CWCRT program is a partnership between the police departments of South San Francisco, Redwood City, Daly City (Cities), and the San Mateo County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS), to optimally respond to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises. This collaboration is designed to provide a co-response model to better support mentally ill individuals and their families in crisis, as well as the community.

The CWCRT program will embed a BHRS clinician with the San Mateo Police Department. The clinician will partner with officers and related service providers to optimally address every incident. The clinician will respond in tandem with San Mateo police officers to incidents involving behavioral health crises. Once law enforcement ensures the scene is safe, officers will determine if the matter involves a crime or not. For non-criminal matters, the clinician will assume responsibility for the individual. The clinician will assess client needs, ensure appropriate action is taken, and connect the individual with the appropriate service providers. For incidents involving criminal matters, law enforcement will maintain responsibility, and they will work with the clinician to arrive at the optimal outcome possible. The clinician will also provide on-going training to the San Mateo Police Department in the area of behavioral health, crisis response, and de-escalation.

The CWCRT Program will have identified goals and objectives, which include the following:

- Improved outcomes for individuals experiencing behavioral health crises
- Increased access to appropriate resources
- Increased and improved training and collaboration between BHRS and law enforcement staff
- Strengthened relationships between law enforcement, behavioral health service providers, and the community.

Additionally, the CWCRT Program will measure and report regularly on its effectiveness in achieving identified outcomes, which include reduced use of public safety and emergency services, reduced contact between individuals with behavioral health issues and the criminal justice system, improved residential and behavioral health stability, etc. To accomplish this, the County and Cities have partnered with the John W. Gardner Center of Stanford University. The Gardner Center will conduct regular data analysis to determine the program's effects, assess outcomes, and consider appropriate adjustments. The data and corresponding analysis will be shared with all parties to facilitate informed decision making about the program's continuation. At the conclusion of the two-year term, the parties will determine if the program should be continued.

Per the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the County and Cities will share the total program costs, which amount to \$615,492 in year 1, and \$633,956 in year 2. The County will pay for half of these costs, and each individual City will pay for one quarter of the remaining cost (or one eighth of the total program cost). This results in the City of San Mateo paying \$76,937 in year 1, and \$79,245 in year 2. This cost is shown below in Figure 1, with cost-of-living adjustments resulting in higher costs for year 2 when compared to year 1.

Fig 1: Program Costs

	Year 1	Year 2
Community Wellness and Crisis Response Team Program (City of San Mateo Share)	\$76, 937	\$79,245

BUDGET IMPACT:

The CWCRT program is anticipated to likely be staffed and become operational on April 1, 2021. The Police Department is requesting a budget appropriation for FY 2020-21, in the amount of \$19,235, to cover this unbudgeted expense that will be incurred this fiscal year. Future contract costs will be included in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 budgets.

The assignment of a San Mateo Police Sergeant to the Countywide Gang Intelligence Unit (this item is also on the agenda for approval) will result in \$120,000 in reimbursement annually. This revenue will fully cover the cost of this agreement for provision of mental health clinician services, resulting in no net impact to the General Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

This agreement is not a project subject to CEQA, because it can be seen with certainty that it will not cause a physical change in the environment. (Public Resources Code Section 21065.)

NOTICE PROVIDED

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

ATTACHMENTS

Att 1 – Proposed Resolution

Att 2 – Agreement

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