

# Co-Responder Program

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Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

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# Co-Responder Overview

- A co-responder team model is a collaborative approach to behavioral crisis response that pairs mental health professionals with law enforcement.
- **The goal is to:**
  - de-escalate crisis situations
  - assist in diversion from jail and or behavioral health crisis services by connecting individuals in crisis with services
  - increase access to care and promote engagement with treatment

# Co-Responder Target Population

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Individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis who are the subject of a 911 intervention that could benefit from behavioral health (BH) services and supports within the community as opposed to being detained in jail.

# Co-Responder Pilot Locations and Providers

Highland Rivers Community Services Board- Cobb County Police Department *	Coweta Cares- Coweta Fire/EMS *	Gateway Behavioral Health Services- * Savannah Police Department	Legacy Behavioral Health Services- Valdosta Police Department
New Horizons Behavioral Health- Columbus Police Department *	River Edge Behavioral Health- Macon-Bibb Sherriff's Office	Serenity Behavioral Health Systems- McDuffie County Sherriff's Office	View Point Health- Chamblee Police Department *

\* Operational team

## Criteria used for selection of providers targeting;

- areas with high volume of Behavioral Health related 911 calls
- areas of high officer-involved shootings
- densely populated areas

# HB1013 and SB 403 Implications

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**HB 1013** - Fund a minimum of five new co-responder programs (FY 2023 appropriated state funds for ten additional sites)

**SB 403** - Each Community Service Board (CSB) shall establish a co-responder program to offer assistance or consultation to peace officers responding to emergency calls involving individuals with behavioral health crises

# SB 403 Implications

- Develop a state model for co-responder, with criteria based on SB 403 requirements;
- No later than July 15, 2023, and annually thereafter - DBHDD shall submit to the board proposed budgets for co-responder programs for each CSB
- Prior to July 15, 2023 - All policies and procedures need to be completed
- No later than January 31, 2024, and annually thereafter – DBHDD shall issue a written report regarding the co-responder program

# SB 403 Implementation

- Working with existing and new teams to implement their co-responder models
- Data collection through monthly programmatic reports
- Creation of co-responder funding opportunity announcement
- Collaboration with CSBs, Law Enforcement, 911 and Judicial partners
- Engaging stakeholders for the Co-Responder Advisory Committee – DBHDD, CSBs, Judicial, Law Enforcement, Advocates, existing Co-responder Teams

# SB 403 Implementation

- Identification of trainings, requirements and costs
- Development of a referral System by which any law enforcement agency may request behavioral health consultation
- Development of a referral form for individuals to be transferred to another CSB for services
- Discussion of additional data collection points and standardization across the state



# Co-Responder Advisory Committee

- Meetings commenced September 2022
- Focus: Jail Diversions, Data Collection, Workforce, Training, Protocols
- Representatives from:
  - DBHDD State and Regional Offices
  - CSB (All Regions)
  - Mobile Crisis Response Team
  - CSB Association
  - Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network
  - Law Enforcement
  - Courts

# Moving Forward

## Opportunities

- Collaboration and input from co-responder advisory committee
- Continue to build rapport with law enforcement
- Review of existing policies and procedures
- Create trainings for co-responder teams
- Data standardization
- Increase public knowledge of co-responder teams

## Challenges

- Workforce
  - Licensed Clinicians are in high demand across the system
  - Increased risk of working environment
- Additional funding is needed for required trainings for CSBs, Law Enforcement and 911
- Identifying other funding opportunities – County funds, federal grants

# Contact Information

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