

# City of West Allis Police Department

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## Inter-Office Report

Date: October, 12, 2017  
To: Chief P. Mitchell  
From: Capt. C. Evenson  
Subject: Implementation of a WAPD Crisis Assessment Response Team Officer (**CART**)

As you are aware, the WAPD was approached in early 2017 by Milwaukee County's Behavioral Health Division, regarding our agency participating in the Crisis Assessment Response Team (CART) program. The Milwaukee Police Department has successfully participated in the CART program since 2013. Our agency was viewed as a good candidate for the CART program based on our high volume of emergency detention cases each year.

The Crisis Assessment Response Team would consist of a single Crisis Mobile Team Clinician supplied by Milwaukee County's Behavioral Health Division (BHD), and a single officer supplied by our agency. These individuals will partner together to respond to both emergency and non-emergency calls to provide services and attempt to either stabilize individuals with their own natural support system and / or resources, or assist them in obtaining voluntarily treatment. The CART unit would utilize an unmarked squad car and a plain clothes officer for a low profile response.

The goal of the CART unit is to decrease the number of emergency detentions by identifying and utilizing voluntary alternatives for our citizens, thereby creating a positive impact for those experiencing a mental health crisis. Due to BHD partnering with law enforcement, the team is able to initiate involuntary treatment when necessary.

Other functions of this position would include:

- Providing a mental health assessment prior to CJF (county jail) admission for prisoners in custody who are displaying signs and symptoms of a mental health crisis, preventing an unnecessary transport to Psychiatric Crisis Services (PCS), thereby decreasing flight risk.
- CART would respond as a resource squad to high priority crisis calls involving mentally ill and / or suicidal individuals (i.e barricaded subjects, person threatening to harm themselves, etc.)
- CART would work, through proactive home visits, to decrease the number of repeated interactions between individuals diagnosed with serious and persistent mental illness and our officers
- CART would reach out to our homeless population and provide them with information on a wide variety of available resources.
- Through relationship building, CART would decrease the likelihood of use of force incidents and injuries to subjects, officers and the community.

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- CART would advocate for our citizens and link them to mental health services to help reduce homelessness, reduce victimization, reduce substance abuse and minimize contact with law enforcement and utilization of emergency services.

**The BHD's proposal provides the WAPD with a fully funded officer's salary for the first 2 years of the program.** In addition to PFC approval, this program won't begin unless the West Allis Common Council authorizes increasing the strength of the sworn staff by 1, from 129 to 130. The BHD funding will make this revenue neutral for the first two years of operation. At the end of the two year period, the city will have to decide from one of three options: 1) identify new funding to continue the program, 2) continue the program within existing funding, or 3) discontinue the program.

The Officer selected for this position would be required to receive intensive behavioral health training from BHD and undergo the full 30 day training provided to all Crisis Mobile Team members. If approved, the intent is to begin this program in early 2018.

The BHD will maintain a database for the collection and maintenance served and issues presented. The BHD will make this data available to our agency and will prepare reports as requested for general reporting and planning. The West Allis Police Department will also compile and analyze data related to the effectiveness of this program.

Respectfully submitted,



Capt. Chad Evenson