

NYS Police Reform and Reinvention Committee (1/18/2021)

Proposal Summary:

Delaware County Mental Health and Addiction providers network propose developing a Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Referral System modeled after a similar program in Essex County.

Process:

Sheriff Dept. makes a decision that someone with a behavioral health condition could benefit from a referral to the mental health/substance use provider system (Prevention, Treatment, Recovery)

Officer fills out an on-line referral using a HIPAA compliant website link.

Referral will go to multiple designated behavioral health staff emails so the referral is not missed.

The referral is triaged for appropriate response.

Sheriff Dept. is provided a “we got it” response to the referral

When to make a referral:

- Mental Health conditions or symptoms that affect the person’s ability to work, carry out daily activities and engage in satisfying relationships.
- Recurrent use of alcohol and /or drugs that lead to same disruption as mental health concerns
- Repetitive calls to same person/address where situation may not warrant hospitalization but is concerning.

Program details:

This is a one- way referral system, information does not flow back to sheriff’s dept.

It is not a crisis referral program

It doesn’t require major LE training. Referral form is simple to use

Sheriff Dept. can do a warm handoff to the behavioral health system

Transports to hospital (9.41) could result in referral so individual could receive follow up connections if not hospitalized.

Benefits:

Low cost to implement

Law Enforcement is connecting individuals in need of MH and SU issues to the proper resources

Reduction of repeat calls to same address