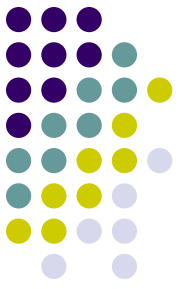


TEXAS PUBLIC EMPLOYER LABOR RELATIONS
ASSOCIATION (TxPELRA) ANNUAL WORKSHOP
January 29, 2020

ANNUAL CIVIL SERVICE WORKSHOP
January 30–31, 2020

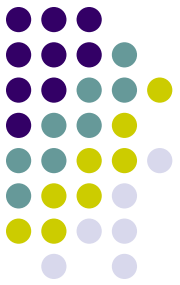
Embassy Suites Hotel • San Marcos

Mental Health Response Impacts on Officer Safety January 2020



Introduction

- “Many communities continue to face gaps in mental health services, especially crisis services, placing a heavy burden on law enforcement agencies, and in particular, officers. Without access to appropriate alternatives officers are often left with a set of poor choices: leave people in potentially harmful situations, bring them to hospital emergency rooms, or arrest them” (BJA, 2019)



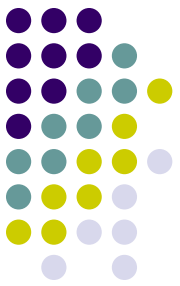
Questions

- What are the problems ?
- How do we respond ?
- What can we do better ?



Problems

- Police shootings linked to mental illness
- A person suffering from mental illness is reportedly up to 4 times as likely to be killed by police
- An estimated 7% of police contacts involve the mentally ill
 - These incidents result in Use of Force
 - Officer and client injury
 - Civil liability

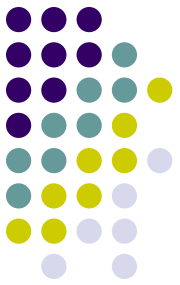


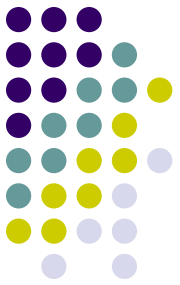
Problems

- “The system is broken and has a band aid on it” (P. Broch)
- Mental Health beds
 - There were reportedly over 14,000 beds in 1964
 - Only 2000 in 2016
 - Currently zero beds in my county
 - There are more Mental Health beds in Harris and Galveston County Jails combined than the entire state

Training

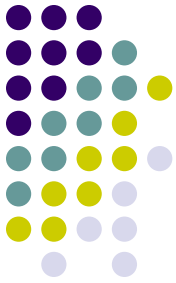
- TCOLE Standards vs Reality
- Baseline
- Talent





Problems

- Data
 - Tracking MHMR related calls
 - Tracking and reduction Repeat offenders and locations
 - Tracking and reduction of use of force in MHMR calls



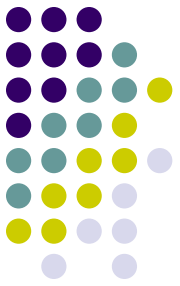
My Challenges

LACK OF MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES IN GALVESTON COUNTY

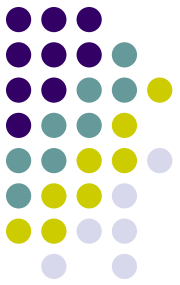
Scope of the Challenge



Response



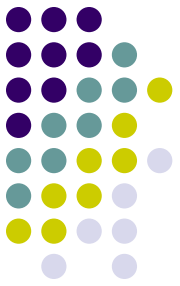
- Crisis Intervention Teams- Individual trained officers
- Mobile Crisis Teams
 - Local Mental Health Partners
- Advanced response teams –
 - Specialized training at officer level
 - Joint resources teams
- Specialized Mental Health
- Jail Diversion (post arrest)
- Case management teams
 - Proactive checks on consumers, medications, etc



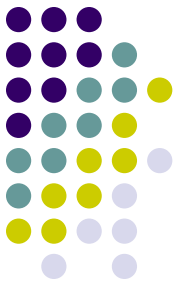
What can we do better

- Reduction Repeat offenders and locations
- Reduction of use of force in MHMR calls
- Collaboration with mental health professionals
- Policy
- Training

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A MENTAL HEALTH OFFICER PROGRAM



- Collaborative Planning and Implementation
- Specialized Training
- Call Taker and Dispatcher Protocols
- On-Scene Assessment of the Signs and Symptoms of Mental Illnesses and the Subsequent Disposition
 - Stabilization and De-escalation
- Transportation and custodial transfer
- Organizational Support



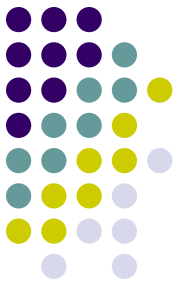
Resources

- Police-Mental Health Collaboration Toolkit
 - www.Pmhctoolkit.bja.gov
- Meadows Foundation
 - www.texasstateofmind.org

Innovations



- The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, Dallas Fire-Rescue Department, Dallas Police Department, and Parkland Health & Hospital System today announced the launch of the Rapid Integrated Group Healthcare Team Care (RIGHT) pilot program



- The first of its kind in the state of Texas. The RIGHT Care Program includes specially trained and equipped police officers, paramedics, and mental health professionals who will respond as a team to safely and effectively manage patients experiencing behavioral emergencies. In addition, a Parkland mental health clinician will also be housed in the 911-call center to monitor calls and serve as a liaison to Dallas officers across the city.

Questions

