



SAN JOSE POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING BULLETIN

TO: ALL DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

FROM: Anthony Mata
Chief of Police

**SUBJECT: PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY
RESPONSE TEAM (PERT)**

DATE: May 9, 2022

Bulletin# 2022-011

In 2017, the Centers for Disease Control contacted Santa Clara County due to the unusually high number of teen suicides occurring within its jurisdiction. Recommendations from the study suggested a lack of available mental health resources was contributing to this risk. Santa Clara County Behavioral Health (SCCBH) applied and was awarded a Mental Health Services Act grant to help develop and fund mobile mental health services for this at-risk population.

The San Jose Police Department was invited to take advantage of this opportunity and agreed to partner with the SCCBH to create a Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT). The implementation of a PERT team within the Department will provide the ability to collaboratively increase public safety and reduce recidivism among the high-risk individuals with mental illness.

The PERT team is a one-year pilot program that provides the Department the opportunity to employ a behavioral health clinician to respond, in real, time to patrol events with a law enforcement PERT officer. This collaboration between the Department and SCCBH will strive to increase public safety and provide rapid interventions and positive outcomes to those individuals in a mental health crisis by de-escalating the situation and stabilizing the person using the least restrictive means possible. Once the situation has been stabilized, the PERT team will determine the most appropriate level of care while supporting the needs and safety of the individual in crisis. When the pilot program expires, the overall effectiveness of the program will be evaluated and determine if it should be extended, modified, terminated, or adopted.

PERT RESPONSIBILITIES:

The PERT team will provide and support Department members by performing the following duties:

- Participate in proactive responses for high-risk individuals with mental illness in a collaborative manner between Behavioral Health and the San Jose Police Department.
- Conduct mental health evaluations and assessments of individuals, including crisis screening, for persons with serious mental illness including frequent users of emergency psychiatric services.
- Assist in determining the appropriate services supporting individuals needs and safety.
- Ensure requirements for detention and transportation pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code section 5150 are met and documentation supporting this decision is completed properly.

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