

San Ramon Valley FPD Behavioral Health Crisis Response Pilot Program: \$740,200 (One-time)

The Public Safety for Mental Health Initiative is a transformational approach to addressing the current and growing mental health crisis throughout our communities.

The pilot project objectives serve to:

- Identify violent vs. nonviolent calls, through the initial Emergency Dispatch triage, and change the historic and current response paradigm.
- Provide a new first approach and assessment by Fire/Emergency Medical Services to identified nonviolent calls, with Law Enforcement staging in the event of escalation.
- Reduce avoidable Law Enforcement engagement.
- Implement early assessment and de-escalation techniques.
- Fill the existing behavioral and mental health education training gap for Dispatchers, Law Enforcement and Fire/Emergency Medical Responders.
- Equip our First Responders, including police officers and dispatchers with the necessary knowledge, skills, and ability to assess all nonviolent mental health calls, by providing a robust education program that promotes compassionate care and advocacy.
 - The District has identified and engaged a nationally recognized Professional Licensed Counselor/Certified Crisis Intervention Specialist to provide this specialized training.
- Increase awareness for all First Responders on how stressors of the job impact their own mental health, and that of their coworkers.
- Increase overall wellness and provide mental health resources to support the resiliency and mental health of all First Responders.
- Provide transportation for citizens suffering from mental health emergencies to County Public Health identified alternative destinations when appropriate.
- Serve as a complimentary support system to County Mental Health Services.

The District is seeking startup funds to implement the proposed Mental Health Initiative. The estimated start-up cost is \$740,200. These funds would be utilized for generalist training for all First Responders, Law Enforcement Partners and Dispatchers (\$187,200). Other costs include the purchase and outfitting of one 24/4 “sprinter” ambulance for transporting patients (\$170,000) and the recruitment, training, and equipping of (non-firefighter) paramedics in specialized mental health care that would be available 24-7-365 (\$383,000) to respond to non-violent mental health calls.

If the pilot program is successful, the District would include the ongoing operating and capital replacement costs in future budgets.

Recommendation

The County Administrator’s recommendation is to fund the one-time proposal of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District Behavioral Health Crisis Response in the amount of \$740,200.