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Memorandum

To: Brian Townsend, Village Manager
From: Bill Wolf, Police Chief
Date: November 23, 2022
Subject: Police Mobile Mental Health Unit Grant
For: Public Safety Committee

The Schaumburg Police Department received congressional funding through Representative Krishnamoorthi's office for a mobile mental health unit in the amount of \$340,000. The funding required the department to apply for a grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The department has received conditional funding approval for a one-year pilot program. Once fully approved, funds from this grant will be used to employ and equip a mobile crisis clinician to offer face-to-face, immediate, and short-term mental health care as well as treatment referral services for substance abuse and mental health crises in the community. The project will reduce unnecessary hospitalizations, decrease contact with the criminal justice system, decrease police calls for service, and offer more comprehensive responses to community crises through collaborative mental health and substance abuse disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

The mobile crisis clinician will be a licensed, experienced social worker and will be assigned to the existing Human Services Unit in the police department. Essential functions for this position include:

- Responding with officers to police calls for service that are mental health and/or substance use related.
- Providing support, information, and linkage to services to community members with issues involving mental health and/or substance abuse.
- Maintaining professional relationships with community partners who provide mental health and substance abuse services.
- Developing ongoing therapeutic relationships with residents who historically have difficulty accessing services.
- Providing case management services to assist residents with medication management, government assistance applications, and life skills.

The most unique aspect of this endeavor is creating the ability to bring the counseling office to the client, instead of the client's only option being to go to the police department, village family

counseling center, or another service provider. The mobile crisis clinician will utilize a customized vehicle outfitted with furniture and equipment to mimic an actual counseling office. The flexibility of the mobile crisis clinician will be crucial in providing care and treatment to Schaumburg residents who are unable to seek services outside their homes due to transportation limitations, physical difficulties, or because of their mental health condition itself. The mobile crisis clinician will also be able to respond to police incidents involving individuals in mental health crises, providing care and treatment directly at the scene as soon as the situation is deemed safe.

The Schaumburg Police Department responds to approximately 400 calls annually where the primary issue involves a mental health crisis. However, thousands of calls every year have mental health or substance abuse related causes or involvement. Police officers and social workers have also dealt with 188 suicidal persons year to date for 2022. That is up from 152 in all of 2021. In 2022, the department also dealt with 108 homeless situations, 27 hoarding incidents, and social workers provided service for substance abuse related issues for 117 people. Police officers respond to an average of 35 overdose cases annually where Narcan administration is required. Although social services are offered to people involved in these situations, the mobile mental health unit will allow an increase for on scene and more persistent longer term social services.

The Community Emergency Services and Support Act (CESSA), the Illinois law requiring 9-1-1 to coordinate with mobile mental health response services to reduce police interaction with individuals experiencing mental health crises, does not negate or reduce the benefit of the Schaumburg mobile crisis clinician. While CESSA does provide for third party mental health responders to handle certain cases not involving criminal activity or threats to public safety, the mobile crisis clinician will be an asset in most incidents where police response is still necessary; there will be no duplication of services between the mobile crisis clinician and the provisions outlined in CESSA.

The total grant amount will be allocated to cover expenses for twelve months' salary and benefits for a full-time social worker (\$124,908), to purchase and customize a mobile crisis vehicle (\$140,000), to procure required communications equipment and services (\$6,550), and to provide various professional services and miscellaneous expenses (\$68,542).

The following is a breakdown of expenditures for funds allocated by this grant:

Clinician

The mobile crisis clinician will be responsible for daily operation of the mobile unit, community outreach and in-reach, assessing clients, and conducting community education. The clinician will report to the Human Services supervisor and complete required data collection and service documentation in accordance with the grant requirements. In addition to salary, fringe benefits and other costs will be covered by the grant including federal taxes, Medicare deductible, pension contribution, village retirement plan, and worker's compensation.

Vehicle

The program's core purpose is the provision of mobile mental health crisis care to divert residents from utilizing 911 and police resources for mental health and substance abuse issues that are not life-threatening or criminal in nature. The program will require the purchase of a customized vehicle such as a small truck or RV that will accommodate space for triage, mental health assessments, client consultation, and transportation to/from partner organizations within the community. The vehicle will be used exclusively for this project.

Communications

The mobile crisis clinician will be equipped with a police radio and mobile phone with wireless broadband connectivity. The clinician will also be assigned a laptop computer for access to village and police resources along with case management software.

Professional Services and Miscellaneous Expenses

The grant covers various professional services, fees, and other expenses including:

- Fees for in/out-patient services for co-occurring residential or outpatient services for clients needing to be seen by a mental health/substance abuse specialist.
- Continuous professional development (capacity building) for staff.
- Prescription drug cost coverage for clients unable to pay for prescription medication and awaiting Medicare/Medicaid approval.
- Therapeutic and psychiatric treatment for clients needing individualized services for hospitalization diversion and post hospitalization treatment. Payment for services rendered will be for reimbursement of services not covered by insurance or for those awaiting Medicare/Medicaid approval.

The Police Department seeks approval for the listed expenditures; however, this request is cost neutral as all expenses will be fully funded in advance by the grant. All funds will be deposited into the Village's account directly from SAMHSA within three days after receipt. At the completion of the one-year pilot, the program will be evaluated to determine if it will be continued with village funds or additional grant funding.