

# **THE PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

# MISSION STATEMENT

- **The Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT)** provides humane and beneficial outcomes for mentally disordered persons who have come to the attention of law enforcement. PERT provides rapid clinical response to assist in-field officers' requests for assistance with mentally disordered individual or people in crisis.

- **PERT** is designed to return uniformed officers to patrol duties as quickly as possible. **PERT** will evaluate the situation, and when appropriate refer the individual to treatment.

# PURPOSE

- To assist field police officers and deputies with suspected mentally disordered individuals and to facilitate a humane resolution in the shortest time without unnecessary incarceration or hospitalization

# OBJECTIVE

- The main objective is to provide intervention, assessment, referral or placement for a mentally disordered individual and allow field officer to quickly return to other duties

# HISTORY OF PERT

- 1992-1993 Officer involved shootings of persons identified as mentally ill
- Shootings were cleared through involved departments and San Diego County District Attorney's Office
- Family members, patients, media questioned law enforcement tactics

# TASK FORCE

- Developed in 1993
- Members:
  - Mental Health Professionals
  - Law Enforcement
  - Family members of patients

# THE TEAMS

- Each team pairs a mental health clinician with an officer/deputy
- Each contributes their particular skills and expertise
- Team members participate in preparatory and on-going specialized training

# CLINICAN DUTIES

- Assessment
- Crisis Intervention
- Referrals/Resources
- Disposition

# OFFICER/DEPUTY DUTIES

- Safety
- Criminal Evaluation
- Disposition
- Transportation

# TEAM APPROACH

- Reactive:
  - -- Requested by patrol
  - -- Directly from dispatch
- Proactive:
  - -- Referrals
  - -- Follow-ups
  - "Round Table"

# TRAINING

- 80 hours PERT academy
- Monthly team meetings
- Monthly training day (10 hours)
- Daily line-up training
- Community outreach

# STAFFING

- Officers/deputies volunteer
- Clinicians carefully screened
- Police background investigations