H.O.P.E.

Homeless Outreach Psychiatric Evaluation Team

Pasadena, California
Commander Michael Korpala
Field Operations Division
PROGRAM ORIGINS

In January 2002 the *Pasadena Police Department* and the *Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health* partnered a police officer and licensed clinical social worker together to provide effective and compassionate responses to mental health and law enforcement issues by; assisting those in need of mental health services and reducing the impact on Patrol officers time.
ViSiOn

- To include a homeless outreach program
  - By providing referrals and services as part of a long-term approach to assist the homeless
  - By reducing and/or preventing future calls for service
  - By preventing unnecessary incarceration or hospitalization of the homeless
VISION

- To better service those with a mental illness
  - By providing expert intervention during critical situations
  - By providing alternative care in a less restrictive environment using a comprehensive system wide resource approach
VISION

To better serve the community

- By allowing patrol officers to remain free to handle other calls for service

- By better protecting the community from those who are a danger to others as a result of mental illness
Composition of the H.O.P.E. Team

- Each team consists of a Pasadena police officer and a Los Angeles County, Department of Mental Health licensed clinician. Officers may or may not be in uniform and teams respond to calls in unmarked Pasadena police vehicles.
H.O.P.E Team Objectives

- Provide cooperative, compassionate mental health/law enforcement teams to assist those persons in need of accessing mental health and social services
H.O.P.E Team Objectives

- Respond and handle any homeless or mental health related calls for service by assessing the client and finding an appropriate resolution.

- Maintain a liaison with other related agencies, groups and mental health professionals.
H.O.P.E Team Objectives

- Respond to crisis situations and/or assist patrol officers in defusing potentially volatile situations through crisis intervention techniques.

- Assist patrol officers in accessing a person’s need for mental health services and arranging for transport to an appropriate facility.
H.O.P.E Team Objectives

- Maintain a outreach program that provides services and assistance to the homeless
- Identify chronic areas and/or individuals and provide long-term solutions to reduce the instances of homelessness
- Provide training to police personnel regarding homeless and mental health issues
Minimum Training for H.O.P.E. Officers

- 40 hour POST ‘Crisis Intervention’ training
- 40 hour ‘Crisis Negotiation’ training
- 8 hour POST class on ‘Effective Enforcement Contacts with the Homeless or Mentally Ill’
- ‘Drug and Alcohol Recognition’ (DAR) class
- Monthly, quarterly and annual update training
Pasadena PD - H.O.P.E. Team

2002 (1st Year)

848 Calls Detailed
725 Incident reports only (IRO)
314 Calls assumed from patrol
124 Hospitalizations
200 Referrals avoiding incarceration

+767 hours Patrol time saved
Pasadena PD – H.O.P.E. Team

2005 (3rd Year)

1883 Calls Detailed
  (+123% from Inception 2002 / 3rd Team added)

1611 Incident reports only (IRO)

344 Calls assumed from patrol

272 Reports

+1238 hours Patrol time saved
  (+61% from inception in 2002)
Pasadena PD – H.O.P.E. Team

Funding

- 2 officers position are funded through federal grants @ $347,736
- 1 officer position carried in police department budget @ $113,423 annually
- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Services provides 3 LSCW’s at no cost to Pasadena through their budget
RESULTS / CONCLUSIONS

- Long Term Solutions
- Time saved by patrol officers
- Immediate accessibility to trained evaluators for those needing mental health/social services
- Defusing of volatile incidents without use of force
- HOPE Teams better able to differentiate drug abuse symptoms from mental health issues
Referral / rapport building with clientele

Counseling of families and friends on how best to help their loved one

Individualized mental health outreach, while maintaining public safety

Assist families and friends in understanding mental health and confinement laws and what to expect of their loved ones
Future Considerations

- Consideration of regionalizing services to assist other local area municipalities
- Obtaining an adaptive vehicle to accommodate disabled persons
- Expanding to a 4th team to provide 24x7 coverage
- Establish a Juvenile mental health component
- Develop an anti-panhandling ordinance to support the city’s 10-year plan to end homelessness in Pasadena
- Reinstatement of a sobering station in Pasadena
AWARDS / RECOGNITION

- 2002 - Pacific Clinic’s, “M.I.L.E.S” Award
- 2005 - Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, “Mental Health Program of the Year”
- 2005 - C.P.O.A’s, “Award of Distinction”
- 2006 - James Q. Wilson, “Excellence in Community Policing” Finalist Award
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