

MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT



Public Information Office
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Subject: **LAUNCH OF THE CO-RESPONDER TEAM
(CRT) PROGRAM**

On July 15, 2024, the Miami Police Department launched the Co-Responder Team (CRT) program, an innovative initiative aimed at providing enhanced support and effective intervention for individuals experiencing mental health crisis.

The CRT program pairs highly trained Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) certified police officers with licensed mental health professionals and certified peer specialists. The CRT ensures that individuals in crisis receive timely and compassionate care. The focus on de-escalation techniques is crucial in reducing the likelihood of incarceration or involuntary examinations.

The mission of the Co-Responder Team is to offer alternative responses to traditional policing by focusing on the needs of those with mental health issues. By integrating mental health expertise directly into our response teams, we aim to foster a safer environment for all involved and build stronger relationships within our community.

Program objectives:

- Ensure the safety of individuals in crisis, community members and officers.
- Build trust and improve collaboration between law enforcement, mental health providers, and the community.
- Address systemic issues such as lack of access to mental health services, homelessness, substance abuse, and poverty.
- Provide ongoing training to law enforcement and mental health professionals to enhance their understanding and skills in crisis intervention.
- Reduce the cycling of individuals with mental health issues through the criminal justice system by addressing underlying needs.
- Collect and analyze data to evaluate and refine the co-response model continually.

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Case: **N/A**

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Manuel A. Morales, Chief of Police

NEWS RELEASE