

To: **Public Safety Committee**
Through: **Nathan Burkett, City Manager**
From: **Brian Sturgeon, Chief of Police**
Date: **September 7, 2021**

Travis's Law

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2021 during the Minnesota Legislative Special Session, the Omnibus Crime Bill was passed which included changes to the 911 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) responsibilities regarding Mental Health referrals to Crisis Response Units that went into effect August 1, 2021.

The change to section 403.03, subdivision 1 added section (b) which states:

(b) In addition to ensuring an appropriate response under paragraph (a), the 911 system may shall include a referral to mental health crisis teams, where available.

Dakota County Social Services does have a Crisis Response Unit (CRU) that has the ability to provide telephone consultation along with limited mobile crisis response capabilities. As of this meeting date, Dakota County Communication Center (DCC) is not referring calls to the CRU, but as of September 15, 2021 some mental health calls will be sent to the CRU instead of a law enforcement response.

The need for change when responding to mental health calls for service has been a priority for this department for several years. In collaboration with the Dakota County Chiefs of Police Association, we are advocating for this change more now than ever because our community and society is demanding it.

We have been on the forefront of innovative response to mental health including the implementation of the Coordinated Response Pilot Program with Dakota County Social Services. We also have a CRU social worker housed out of our department one day a week to respond to in progress crisis related calls. We have been an advocate of Dakota County Social Services to increase their staff of social workers in order to address the needs of the community.

This discussion will talk about the changes that are occurring not only in our department, but in the capabilities of Dakota County Social Services in addressing the need for this change.

Attached to this memo are two documents related to this topic. The first one is an informational paper on the stance of the Dakota County Chiefs of Police Association as it relates to the need for change. This document was presented to the full Council a couple of months ago. The second document describes the change in protocol for the DCC in transferring certain mental health calls to the CRU.

We are only at the starting point in the way emergency and non-emergency mental health calls are addressed. We envision many changes in the future and will continue to work to make sure those individuals with mental health issues are receiving the response that is most appropriate.

FISCAL IMPACT:

		Amount
Fund:		None
Department:		
Account:		

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Informational and discussion purposes.