



**Cook County
Alternative Health Intervention & Response (ALT-HIR) Task Force**

June 1, 2022

10:00am

Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

[Meeting Recording Link](#)

ATTENDANCE

Present: Das, Joshi, Degnen, Bennett, Hernandez, Mora, Story (7 – quorum met)

PRESENTATIONS

Department: ALT-HIR Task Force Leadership

Presentation Title: ALT-HIR Task Force Research Summary

Presenters: Avik Das, Esq – Executive Director, Justice Advisory Council
Dr. Kiran Joshi – Co-Lead & Senior Medical Officer, Cook County Department of Public Health

Summary: Reviewed who the Task Force has heard from so far, what has been learned about the current crisis intervention matrix, and where the landscape intends to continue to grow and expand.

Department: ALT-HIR Task Force Leadership

Presentation Title: ALT-HIR Task Force Discussion

Presenters: Avik Das, Esq – Executive Director, Justice Advisory Council
Dr. Kiran Joshi – Co-Lead & Senior Medical Officer, Cook County Department of Public Health

Summary: Facilitated a discussion with the task force members about the current crisis intervention matrix's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT analysis). SWOT analysis notes below:

Alternative Health Intervention and Response

SWOT Analysis – Someone to Call

STRENGTHS

- The County and Task Force is talking about mental health needs of all, including public & first responders
- Current training opportunities about mental health and crisis response for first responders (911)
- The Task Force has support of the County to identify best option and leverage existing tools
- Outlined universal goal – access to mental health response for all

WEAKNESSES

- Front-line workers need more education about resources available and how to bridge them together, from call to response to follow-ups
- Off regular hour response capacity (esp. holidays & weekends)
- Some people may not feel comfortable calling the police (911)
- Accountability across agencies during large scale changes can be challenging

- Streamline mental health crisis resources provided to front-line workers
- Build on statewide relationships
- Need for coordination across County agencies, the Task Force could lead this
- Make sure community knows the alternative calling options
- Public education campaign & ongoing public education to limit crisis need confusion (market numbers to call)

- Sustainability of current systems – funding, resources, staffing, etc.
- Educating the public on who and when to call – we don't want people to feel confused in a time of crisis
- Overall response, we don't want to place first responders in danger – keep clinicians and responders safe

OPPORTUNITIES



THREATS

Figure 1. SWOT Analysis: Someone to Call

16

Alternative Health Intervention and Response

SWOT Analysis – Someone to Respond

STRENGTHS

- While providers are still working to scale up capacity, there is currently full coverage of Suburban Cook County
- The County has the building blocks (ETSB, health system, etc.) for a robust someone to respond system
- Demonstrated health care providers in the field already, we should continue building expertise of providers
- Suburban Cook County has an independent system

WEAKNESSES

- Overall system fragmentation
- Capacity for expected calls is not where it needs to be
- Public unaware of resources may not be well known
- Lack of coordination between mobile service provider, Sheriff, ETSB and training

- Bridge the continuum of care to help those most in need
- Public engagement/awareness campaign for mobile response options
- Decrease system fragmentation – build coordination and collaboration between current partners
- Expand work of service providers in business currently
- Support current calls and prevent more future calls by building somewhere to go

- New pilot and other ideas would be building on system fragmentation
- Risk of sustainability and resources to meet the demand
- Unknown demand
- Sub. Cook County has a unique landscape causing safety concerns
- Lack of workforce, especially workers with lived experience and behavioral health staff (make sure County hiring efforts doesn't cause further strain)
- End result will always be limited by gaps in Somewhere to Go

OPPORTUNITIES



THREATS

Figure 2. SWOT Analysis: Someone to Respond

17

Alternative Health Intervention and Response

SWOT Analysis – Somewhere to Go

STRENGTHS

- JAC partnership – connect people to nonrestrictive settings
- Other County agency partnerships

WEAKNESSES

- Not enough capacity at any level (Living Room, residential, etc.)
- Lack of data – need more on number of people who need nonrestrictive settings, mobile response, handled over the phone. Who is left and what do they need?

- Once in a generation opportunity to build somewhere to go – assess need and invest in brick-and-mortar places to go
- Create a model for how to best deliver care – build this across the country
- CESSA statewide committees creating standards and guidelines for state and county – gives us an opportunity to focus on somewhere to go
- Building bridge between us and State (CESSA, ARPA, etc.)

- Risk of losing effect of the work that's being done in first 2 phases without this
- Multiple stakeholders with varying positions – need collaboration to respond to the needs of the community
- Multiple mental health resources in the space that are managed by external agencies

OPPORTUNITIES

THREATS



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Figure 3. SWOT Analysis: Somewhere to Go