



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

June 22, 2022

10:00am

Virtual Meeting – Microsoft Teams

[Meeting Recording Link](#)

ATTENDANCE

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

PRESENTATIONS

Department: Cook County Sheriff's Treatment Response Teams

Presenters: Elli Petacque Montgomery, LCSW – Director of Mental Health Advocacy & Treatment Response Team Programs, Cook County Sheriff
Jason Hernandez – Executive Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Cook County Sheriff

Summary: Presentation of the Cook County Treatment Response Team Program followed by a task force member Q&A. The presentation covered the creation of the Treatment Response Team Program, examples of when and how the teams are utilized, staffing requirements, and future growth goals.

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: Revisited the prepared SWOT analysis with task force members and asked for any additional notes. Final SWOT analysis 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

- 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)
- Medicaid Rule 132

OPPORTUNITIES



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
- Fragmentation & scarcity in 911 alternatives and their capacity

- 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
- Missed opportunities with the impending 988 rollout
- Ability to handle 988 rollout call capacity at local centers

THREATS

Figure 1. Suburban Cook County Someone to Call SWOT

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

- 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

OPPORTUNITIES



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
- Need thorough assessment of safety risks before entering crisis situations

- 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 landscape causing safety concerns
- Lack of workforce capacity, 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
- Sustained financing and resources needed

THREATS

Figure 2. Suburban Cook County Someone to Respond SWOT

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

10

Figure 3. Suburban Cook County Somewhere to Go SWOT