

PAC 11.11.2020 6:30pm
Emergency Response Committee

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The working committee tasked with analyzing and improving the Emergency Response efforts in Montgomery County, MD. The need is identified as trying to assist emergency teams decipher and be more prepared for calls to 911 which may be of a Mental Health or Autism/I/DD Crisis.

Topics/Options Discussed:

Discussion pt. 1: More mobile crisis teams consisting of social workers/de-escalation experts paired with police officer.

- Types of training the social worker should undergo in relation to police training but maintaining the focus of their presence is for de-escalation.
- All agreed that one mobile crisis team is not enough for more than 1 million residents.

Discussion pt. 2: institution of a voluntary data base where police are alerted to the possibility of aggression or violence and presence of disability when responding to calls placed from family members or homes.

- Some residents may not want to disclose the presence of a disability in their family or may not want "government" knowing.

- How to address the “mistrust” of police to handle and answer these calls.
- Some autism families are afraid to call 911 for a variety of reasons: their child will be arrested, taken from them, CPS will be involved, situation could turn violent.

Discussion pt. 3: adding a “standard question” ECC operators will ask immediately when answering a call. “Is this a mental health, Autism or I/DD emergency?” Then connecting the call to appropriate staff to decipher needs and dispatch help.

- CAHOOTS System where a social worker is sitting right there to field calls of this nature.
- How to combine call records with fire/ambulance/rescue records where they are allowed to “flag” certain homes/families... and fire/medics are cross trained.
- Sharing information between services.

Other topics discussed: Trust issues with police and feel like there is a threat to them or their community if they call.

Meeting with community groups: Shabab will reach out to Silver Spring Justice Coalition, Autism groups (including all function level), FOP rep: Ms. Brewer.

Next steps: Jenn will contact ECC to set up a meeting.
Next committee meeting: Dec. 9 6:30pm