

I am Kate Sugarman, MD. I have been practicing as a licensed family physician since 1991. My entire work career has been with indigent, underserved populations in public health clinics. I have extensive experience working with immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. I live in Potomac MD.

I am strongly in favor of the initiative to remove police from mental health crisis response teams. Instead, I support hiring licensed and linguistically and culturally competent social workers to staff these mobile teams.

Many of my patients are Montgomery county residents who are part of the Latinx, Ethiopian and Eritrean communities. It is critical that we have mental health workers deal with their mental health emergencies so that we do not have more deaths like Finan.

I frequently see mentally ill patients in my clinic and it is very clear from my experience that de-escalation is so critical without the use of weapons.

Kate Sugarman, MD