

Crisis Co-Response Teams: Fostering Collaboration Between Law Enforcement and Mental Health Professionals

Level

Intermediate

CE

CPA/BBS/BRN/CJER

Track

Clinical

Bio

Ryan Vienna, Lieutenant

Ryan is an active, full-time, sworn Lieutenant with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and a sixteen-year veteran in law enforcement. He is responsible for the overall countywide Mental Evaluation Team (MET) deployment that serves the people of Los Angeles County. The LASD MET is a collaboration between the LASD and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH), wherein 32 crisis co-response teams comprised of a specially trained MET Deputy and a licensed clinician from DMH respond to incidents involving person(s) known or suspected of having mental health issues, a Risk Assessment and Management Program (RAMP) that conducts follow-up and long-term intervention strategies, and a robust mental health training mission.

Ryan graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Management from the College of Business and Public Management at the University of La Verne. He went on to earn a Master's degree in Leadership from the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California.

In addition to his career in law enforcement, Ryan has a passion for public service. In March 2017, he was elected to the San Dimas City Council where he currently serves a term expiring in June 2022. Ryan represents the City of San Dimas as the delegate to the League of California Cities, the California Contract Cities Association, and he serves on the Board of Trustees for the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Sanjay Shah, LCSW

Sanjay is a Mental Health Clinical Program Manager for the LA County Department of Mental Health (DMH)-Emergency Outreach and Triage Division. He manages clinicians working in Mental Evaluation Teams working as co-responder with Los Angeles Sheriff Department Deputies since 2016.

Sanjay has been trained in a range of modalities including Recovery Oriented Approach, Crisis Intervention Therapy, Brief Problem-Solving Therapy, Assessing and Managing Suicidal Risk, School Threat Assessment and Management, Individual Psychotherapy, Group Psychotherapy

and Trauma Informed Therapy. He has 31 years of experience in rendering mental health services to individual, group and family in outpatient mental health setup, Psychiatric Emergency Room Services, ACCESS Center and Law Enforcement Teams. Sanjay's educational background includes an MSW and LCSW in the State of California. He is a dedicated mental health professional committed to the mission of the Mental Evaluation

Narrative

In today's society, there is a movement to direct persons with known or suspected mental health issues or crisis away from traditional law enforcement response. Since the 1990s, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) and Department of Mental Health (DMH) have fielded crisis co-response teams known as the LASD Mental Evaluation Team (MET). The LASD MET deploys a specially trained deputy sheriff with a DMH licensed clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, registered nurse, or psychologist in plain clothes in unmarked patient-centric vehicles. In addition to crisis response, the LASD MET has a robust training mission and Risk Assessment Management Program (RAMP) that works to provide long-term intervention strategies, investigations and case follow-up to persons experiencing mental health issues.

Attendees of this presentation should expect to hear a candid discussion from a law enforcement manager and mental health manager on how to better foster collaboration between law enforcement and mental health professionals.

The framework of the presentation will take the attendee through an overview of the nation's largest Sheriff's Department's efforts in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health to field successful co-response teams, effective mental health diversion and intervention strategies and work towards better Alternatives to Incarceration. The positive collaboration between law enforcement and mental health professionals is critical to the success of any co-response model.

Learning Objectives

Identify three issues of cultural competency between law enforcement officers and mental health professionals.

Analyze and describe three challenges of not addressing issues of cultural competency that fail to foster collaboration between law enforcement and mental health professionals.

Differentiate and assess three examples which may inhibit positive relationships diminishing the service provided to the public.