



CITY, COUNTY, AND STATE NEWS

RICHLAND COUNTY, SC: [Richland County sheriff announces new mental health Crisis Intervention Team](#): Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott introduced a new task force Wednesday called the Crisis Response Team, which will be assigned to mental health calls handled by the department. Lott said that mental health issues do not make people criminals and that putting people in jail that need other types of help doesn't address the problem. With that in mind, Lott said the department worked to make a team that will allow them to avoid situations where someone in a crisis is taken to jail or even hurt. More than 70 deputies have gone through 40-hour training sessions on how to address situations involving mental illness, according to Lott.

KETTERING, OH: [Crisis intervention specialist helps Kettering police assess mental health calls](#): A crisis intervention specialist is working with the Kettering Police Department, assisting patrol officers on calls involving mental-health and related issues. Kettering officers have limited training in responding to such calls, and a specialist embedded with patrol units provides on-the-spot professional analysis to better address situations that don't involve serious crimes, said Joe Ferrell, the KPD's public information officer. "One of the goals will be to help increase our efficiency to help citizens who are subject to any mental health related condition," Ferrell said.

MARYSVILLE, WA: [Marysville to pair police officers and mental health workers](#): Clinicians will respond with officers to mental health calls. The pilot program runs through June. The department recently received a \$95,000 grant from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. The new program, called IMPACT for short, was approved by the Marysville City Council about a week ago. The acronym IMPACT stands for Integrated Model for Police and Crisis Teams. The two new staff are expected to work out of the Marysville Police Department but are employees of Compass Health. The grant pays for their salaries and any equipment they may need.

NEW YORK, NY: [Police Removed From Harlem Mental Health Calls In New Program](#): A new city program removing the NYPD from most mental health crisis calls will be tried out first in Central and East Harlem starting this spring, officials told the City Council on Monday. The pilot will be tested in Harlem's 25th, 28th and 32nd police precincts, an area that saw 7,400 mental health-related 911 calls last year — the most anywhere in the city, according to Susan Herman, director of the city's ThriveNYC mental health initiative. Under the new program, three-person teams composed of two EMTs and a social worker will be dispatched to mental health emergencies — overseen by the FDNY and New York City Health + Hospitals, rather than the NYPD. Police will still respond to calls that involve weapons or imminent risk of harm.

"This pilot represents an important change in how New York City responds to mental health crises and it is imperative that we get it right," Herman told a City Council committee.

ORLANDO, FL: [Licensed clinicians to respond to some mental health calls in Orlando:](#)

Two Community Response Teams will soon be on staff at the Orlando Police Department. Each team is made up of one licensed clinician and one case manager. The Orlando Police Department said the department responds to an average of 50 calls a day for emergencies dealing with mental health. With Community Response Teams onboard, some non-violent calls to 911 will dispatch mental health professionals. "We are meeting the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. The ones that can't help themselves. The ones that are in crisis mentally and emotionally, and they're asking for us to send them help. Help doesn't necessarily mean to send the police all the time, but sending someone that can help with their situation," communications supervisor Latashia Stephens said. OPD is partnering with Aspire Health to create Community Response Teams that will provide mental health evaluations and resources on the spot.

NATIONAL

[New Proposal Will Build on Opioid Patients' Right to Know Act](#)

U.S. Representative David Trone (D-Md.), and Reps. Guy Reschenthaler (R-Pa.), Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-N.M.), and David McKinley (R-W.V.) are introducing the bipartisan Opioid Patients' Right to Know Act in an effort to help reduce the prevalence of opioid addiction across U.S. The new proposal is based on the successful inception of the New Jersey Patient Notification Act, which was introduced in 2017 and has since been duplicated by seventeen other states nationwide. The original act requires prescribers to make patients or their guardians aware of the potential of becoming addicted to opioids as well as discuss any available alternatives available prior to prescribing these painkillers.

WEEKEND READING

[The Washington Post:](#) Migrant families seek mental health help for trauma

[CNN:](#) 'Absolutely defeated': Black nurses struggle with mental health support while battling Covid-19

[Salon:](#) Student debt is causing a mental health crisis. Forgiving it would ease distress for millions

[The Hill:](#) X the X-Waiver: How Congress can facilitate treatment for opioid abuse

[USA Today:](#) 'Stop killing us': Attacks on Asian Americans highlight rise in hate incidents amid COVID-19

****The information compiled in this email originated from the following news sources: ABC News 4, Daytona Daily News, HeraldNet, Patch****

