



## **CITY, COUNTY, AND STATE NEWS**

### **CLARK COUNTY, WA: [Clark County to build closer-to-home mental health facilities:](#)**

Clark County is set to become one of the first places to demonstrate Washington's expanded treatment plans for people in the midst of mental health crises. The state's capital budget, recently passed by the Legislature, carves out \$37.7 million to build a 48-bed campus in the county for people whom judges determine are not fit to stand trial. With funding in place, officials said the building will be constructed near Washington State University's Vancouver campus. Officials said it could open in spring 2023. The campus will be comprised of three 16-bed facilities, at least one of which will be run by the state. The campus will operate much like one of Washington's state hospitals — but closer to the homes of people who are receiving treatment. Officials said that's the point of the expansion.

### **HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA: [City to launch EMT, counselor team to respond to mental health calls:](#)**

Come summer, Huntington Beach is expected to launch a mobile crisis response team to handle a variety of mental health and behavior-related calls for service, rather than dispatching police when no crime, violence, or event involving a weapon is unfolding. The two-person civilian team — an emergency medical technician and a clinically trained counselor — is touted as the first such city program of its kind in Orange County. The city's HOPE (Helping People Out Everywhere) team will focus on mental health issues, reaching beyond the homeless population and serving all Huntington Beach residents. "This could be someone living in a gated neighborhood, or a homeless individual who is suffering, and everything in between," Huntington Beach Police Chief Julian Harvey said.

### **PHILADELPHIA, PA: [Following other cities, Philly will soon send specialists alongside cops to some mental health calls:](#)**

For years, Philadelphia officials made adjustments in how authorities respond to 911 calls for people in crisis. More police were trained to intervene. Outreach workers were paired with cops in Kensington. And a behavioral health specialist was embedded in the dispatch center. Police and behavioral health officials are rolling out a pilot "co-responder unit" program, which pairs a health-care provider with a police officer. The pilot will launch within weeks, and units will operate during the day across a swath of the city that includes Kensington, parts of North Philadelphia, and Center City, areas Police Staff Inspector Francis Healy said have "the most need based on the data."

### **ULSTER COUNTY, NY: [County Executive Ryan establishes 26-member mental health task force for Ulster County:](#)**

As Mental Health Awareness Month begins, County Executive Pat Ryan today called for mental health and addiction recovery resources and support to be a top priority in the County's plan for allocating federal relief funds. In addition, he announced the formation of a Behavioral Health Task Force to identify gaps in the County's existing mental

health and substance use disorder landscape, which will be used to inform future investments in behavioral health. The goal of the task force is to establish an action plan based on community needs, which will both highlight existing areas for improvement in the region's behavioral health continuum of care and outline specific recommendations and solutions to address those areas.

## **NATIONAL**

### **[Surgeon general: US 'still not doing enough' to address growing mental health crisis](#)**

Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said the U.S. is “still not doing enough” to address the growing mental health crisis amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The surgeon general said during The Hill’s “Future of Healthcare: Bold Bets in Health” event that he had previously been “deeply concerned” about mental health among Americans before the coronavirus struck. Anxiety and depression levels have risen during the pandemic, he said, adding they had already been increasing ahead of COVID-19. “Here's where my concerns are that we're still not doing enough to meet the extraordinary demand that we have,” he told The Hill’s editor-at-large, Steve Clemons.

## **WEEKEND READING**

**[CNN:](#)** These people started using drugs as children but turned their lives around. Here's how.

**[Employee Benefit News:](#)** Businesses need to double down on mental health post-COVID

**[The Hill:](#)** Access to mental health services dwindled as pandemic need strained providers: GAO report

**\*\*The information compiled in this email originated from the following news sources: The Hill, Oregon Public Broadcasting, EMS1, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Ulster County Gov,**

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