



**Canadian Mental
Health Association**
British Columbia
Mental health for all

City of New Westminster: Community- Led Mobile Crisis Team

Presentation to Council

Concept and Community Design Process

Presented by: Jonny Morris, CEO

Date: 18 October 2021

Agenda

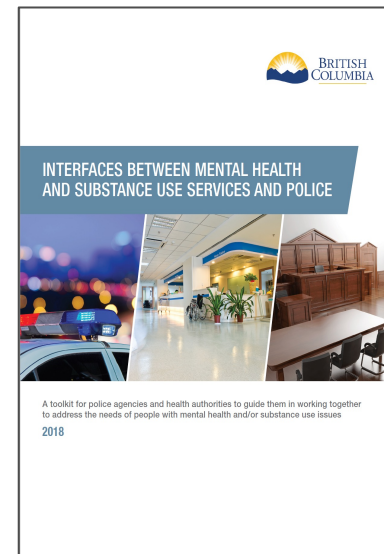
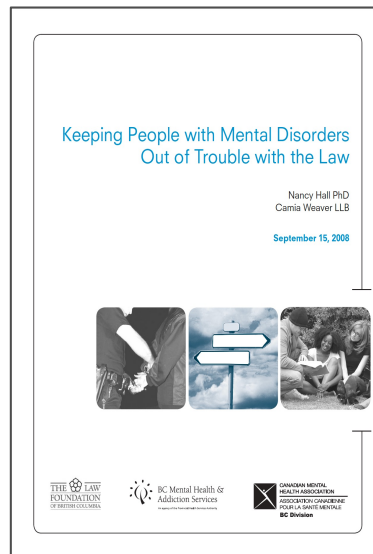
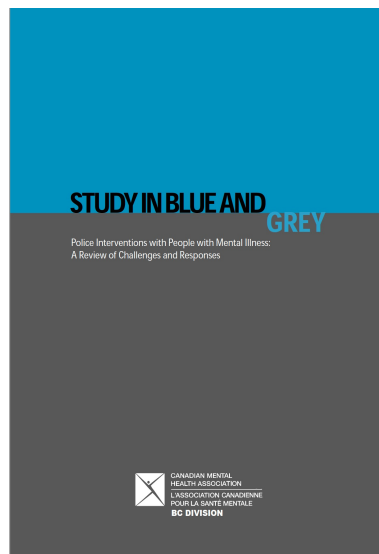
- Acknowledgment of Unceded and Ancestral Indigenous Territories
- Description of Concept and Partnerships
- Process for Community Design
- Questions

Canadian Mental Health Association

CMHA is an established national charitable organization that has been in BC since 1952.

In BC, CMHA has a Division office and 14 local branches that serve over 100 communities.

BC Division has a 20 year+ history of systems-level advocacy focused on mental health, policing and the broader justice system.





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Defining Crisis

Safety Risks:

- Criminal activity
- Threat of violence to self or others

Health Risks:

- Suicide attempt
- Psychosis
- Overdose
- Major physical injuries or co-morbid conditions

Crisis Drivers:

- Shelter / housing issues
- Food security
- Family conflict
- Alcohol / Substances
- Depression / Anxiety
- Loss
- Minor physical injuries

Police

Health

Community

The Issue: Mental Health Crisis Response



In BC, police officers are the frontline responders to mental health crises.

Due to **legislation** and a **lack of voluntary health and social services**, people experiencing a crisis are transported by police to only one of two options. Neither is well-equipped to address the complex issues that lead to the crisis.

Criminal Justice System

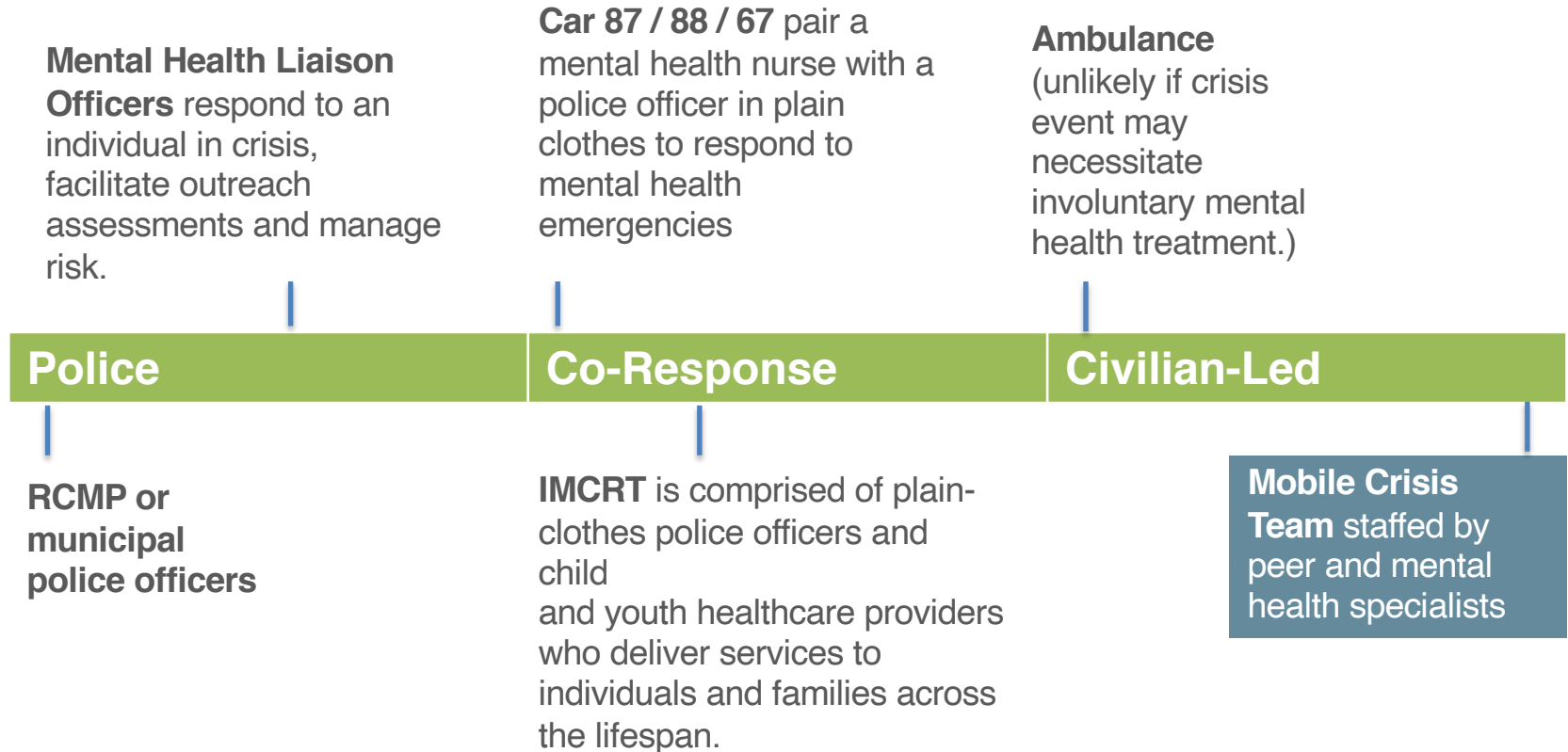


Emergency Department





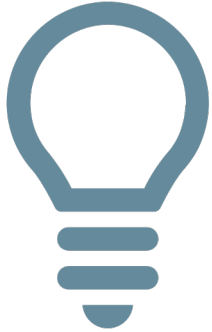
A Solution: BC crisis response continuum



A Solution: BC post-crisis care options

Police	Co-Response		Civilian-Led	
<p>Mental Health Liaison Officers monitor case managed individuals and support review panel and extended leave processes.</p>	<p>Assertive Outreach Team (AOT) pairs a MHSU service provider with an officer in a police car to provide outreach services. Program focuses on short term stabilization and risk mitigation, compared to the long-term planning and intervention of ACT teams.</p>	<p>Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) are mobile units that partner MHSU services in local health authorities with community partners, including police. Teams provide rehabilitation, healthcare assessment and treatment on an ongoing basis.</p>	<p>Community Outreach and Assertive Services Team (COAST) combines social workers, nurses, psychiatrists, community support and peer support to assist people in moving towards recovery and facilitate independence.</p>	<p>Mobile Crisis Teams staffed by peer and mental health specialists provide support and connection to a range of services such as housing, treatment, benefits, employment, etc</p>

The Concept: Peer Assisted Care Team



The Peer Assisted Care Team (PACT) is an alternative or auxiliary service to police response to crisis calls related to mental health.

Key Components:

- Pairs a mental health professional with a trained peer crisis responder.
- Expands the range of mental health supports to City of New Westminster residents, co-designed with populations at higher risk of experiencing distress that may lead to police contact.
- Intends to keep people living with mental illness and substance use and their families connected to their communities and voluntary mental health services.

The Community Planning Process



1

CONVENE a **Systems Planning Table** comprised of New Westminster Police Department, City of New Westminster, Fraser Health, local Indigenous leaders, and other partners to address systems integration issues such as 911 dispatch, intake assessment, triage, information sharing and referral between services.

The Community Planning Process

2

ENGAGE key stakeholders to determine their requirements and considerations for a civilian-led mobile crisis team. The list of stakeholders will aim to include frontline responders, community service providers, urban Indigenous communities, and people with lived and living experience and their families.

The Community Planning Process

3

CONVENE a **Community Design Table** comprised of community agencies and people with lived and living experience of mental illness, substance use and interactions with police to determine operational requirements for the program.

The Community Planning Process

4

CO-DEVELOP a model for a civilian-led mobile crisis response team to the City of New Westminster based on the input from the Systems / Community Planning Tables and the findings from the stakeholder engagement.

The Community Planning Process

5

PROCURE community agency to operate the service through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The Community Planning Tables will nominate a sub-committee to review the proposals and make recommendations on the final decision (subject to provincial funding).



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Questions

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