

Draft Model for the Homeless Response Team Pilot Program

January 31, 2022

In order to address the growing concern of homelessness occurring in Downtown Mansfield, plans are underway to develop a team approach to providing outreach to the homeless population to assure that needs are being met. The following design will be based on a co-response model between law enforcement and behavioral health. The purpose of the team will be to provide outreach, information, and assistance navigation to assist homeless individuals to address their most pressing needs that may be leading to their homelessness.

Team Design:

The Homeless Response team will have two team members:

The Behavioral Health (BH) Professional: initially, will be limited to a licensed professional (i.e., Licensed Social Worker, Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, etc.). The BH Professional will be proficient in providing diagnostic assessment both mental health and substance use disorders, crisis intervention, brief solution focused therapy, Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment and Therapeutic Behavioral Services. He or she will have a good working knowledge of how to access, housing, food assistance, medical care, vocational training and support, and other types of assistance.

The BH Professional will be dedicated to participating on the team 12 hours per week. This will be a 4-hour shift on three separate days. The agency would be advised to train 2 to 3 professionals to fulfill this role on the team to accommodate for vacations, sick leave, or turnover.

The Law Enforcement Officer (LEO): Will be a Mansfield Police Officer, Richland County Sheriff deputy, Auxiliary Officer. He or she should have completed Crisis Intervention Team Training prior to being assigned to the Homeless Response Team. The purpose of the LEO is primarily to provide security and support for the team. Depending on where the team is going, he or she will determine if it is appropriate to provide outreach. If needed they can also assist with interventions and de-escalations.

The LEO will be dedicated to participating on the team 12 hours per week. This will be a 4-hour shift on three separate days. The department(s) would be advised to have 2-3 people dedicated to fulfilling this role to accommodate for vacation, sick leave, or turnover.

Vehicle: The Team will utilize a marked vehicle. The benefit that we found to utilizing a marked vehicle regarding the Opiate Response team was that it conveyed to the community that Law Enforcement is here to help the community. The purpose of the team is to help individuals navigate their way back to independent living and not just to arrest or provide an interdicted response. A possibility will be to coordinate with the Opiate Response Team (ORT). A vehicle has been dedicated to the ORT which does runs on Wednesday and Friday morning, it is also part of the Community Policing program, but this may provide a vehicle that could be available to the homeless response team on days it is not being used by the ORT.

Tracking Logs: The BH Professional will be responsible for completing a one-page activity log. This individual will not be providing a billable service (i.e., reimbursable from Medicaid or private insurance), during the pilot program. However, as we look beyond the pilot and at sustainability of the program, we will want to see what services are being provided that may have various funding sources beyond local discretionary dollars. This log will also be used during phase one to determine the best times and days to have the team active. Locations that are most productive, what types of services are being provided and what level of staffing is best suited for providing that need. All logs will be submitted to the administrative agent on a weekly basis.

Planning Phase:

March 1, 2022, to April 1, 2022.

During this time, the agency that will be employing the BH Professional will have 30 hours to develop a resource manual and to train their staff on how to use it and continue to update it as the program progresses. The BH professionals should be well-versed in accessing all levels of services. He or she should know how to access various forms of public transportations. The process to establish benefits through Job and Family Services, including eligibility criteria for TANF, PRC, SNAP, and Medicaid. Where and how to access housing assistance. Where to access vocational assistance including uniforms or equipment that may be required. How to access healthcare services including but not limited to prenatal, dental, general and prescription assistance.

The BH Professional should not do for the individuals unless that is the only choice but should focus more on working with individuals to access assistance him or herself, with some assistance from the team. The whole process should be manualized for ease of training new or additional individuals to fill the position on the team through “on the job” training.

The team should develop contacts with 211, Catholic Charities, JFS, Jobs Ohio, Third Street Family Health Services, Harmony House, ARC Center and other organizations that are providing voluntary supports to the homeless population, to name a few.

Phase One:

Beginning April 4, 2022, running through September 30, 2022 (26 Weeks).

The purpose of phase one will be to provide 12 hours of direct services to the Homeless Response effort per week with a high degree of flexibility as to what will occur and when it will occur. This will be an exploratory period for the team to determine the best way to deliver outreach to the homeless population and garner the greatest level of positive outcomes.

For phase one the team will provide 12 hours per week over 3 days of direct team activities. These will not be “on call” hours, or “To Be Determined” activities or “up to” 4 hours. During the 4 hour runs, the team can visit permanent locations such as Harmony House, The City Center, the shelter for meal distribution, ARC, or other sites. The team can also respond to less permanent locations that are seeing frequent homeless activity such as the Gazebo in Central Park, parking lots by business, etc. If, for some reason the team has a day with little activity, they can also be used by MPD or Catalyst Crisis to do home-based follow ups on crisis calls or well-being checks.

The team should exercise flexibility in times that they do their runs and days that they do their runs. For example, Week 1, they might go out on Monday from 9am to 1pm, Tuesday from 12pm to 4pm and Thursday from 10am to 2pm. Week 2, they may go on Tuesday from 8am to noon, Wednesday from 12pm to 4pm and Thursday from 12pm to 4pm. As they discover the days and time that give them the greatest accessibility to people in need, they can start to establish a more permanent schedule.

During Phase One, The Administrative Agent will complete a monthly progress report based on the Activity logs and provide these to all the partner organizations. During the 4th month of the program a meeting will be established with the partner organization and the team members to discuss progress, challenges and team needs. This will begin the process to make any adjustments that may need to occur as the program move into Phase Two.

By no later than August 2, 2022, an addendum will be presented in writing to the team members, their employers, and all partner agencies, describing any adjustments that will be made to the overall program, starting with the beginning of phase two on October 1, 2022.

Phase Two:

October 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023 (39 Weeks)

The Team will implement any changes that were determined for the team on August 2nd. The team will continue to submit Activity Logs weekly. The Administrative agent will continue to produce monthly progress reports based on information provided on the activity logs.

The team members and the partner organizations will meet in November 2022 to discuss adjustments that need to be made to address cold weather needs and any anticipated Calendar Year changes.

The team members and the partner organizations will meet in March of 2023 to discuss the Homeless Response Team beyond the pilot.

Program Funding:

BH Professional: Total: \$101,250.00

Planning Phase: 30 hours at a rate of \$125.00* Per Hour = \$3,750.00

Phase One: 12 hours per week at a rate of \$125.00* per hour for 26 Weeks= \$39,000.00

Phase Two:** 12 hours per week at a rate of \$125.00* per hour for 39 weeks= \$58,500.00

Law Enforcement Officer: Total: \$?????.??

Phase One: 12 hours per week at a rate of \$???.?? (Overtime rate of agency) for 26 Weeks= \$?????.??

Milage for vehicle at \$.??/Mile = ?????.??

Phase Two:** 12 hours per week at a rate of \$???.?? (Overtime rate of agency) for 39 Weeks= \$?????.??

Milage for vehicle at \$.??/Mile= \$?????.??

*Justification for \$125.00/ hour rate. This rate will cover lost productivity by the agency. Potential billable services and their rates that the BH Professional would be providing if they were not dedicated to this program, are as follows:

Psychotherapy Crisis: \$145.95 per hour

Diagnostic Assessment with Complexity: \$122.85

Psychotherapy Individual: \$102.31 for 60 minutes

Therapeutic Behavioral Supports Community Based: \$28.59 per 15 minutes = \$114.36 per hour

Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment: \$19.54 per 15 minutes = \$78.16 per hour

**The amount if phase two may vary based on adjustments that may occur in the Addendum on August 2nd. If the team reduces hours, this will result in reduced hourly expenses, if they increase, this will increase the cost.