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Public Comment on Item #25 - 20-0899

1 message

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Regarding the BOS response to the Grand Jury Report on policing those with behavioral health issues.

I am very pleased to see the recommendation to expand the PERT (Psych Emerg Response Team).

The expansion of this important program should include only additional MH Clinician Funding.

It is unnecessary to add another deputy - we already have many deputies that can pair with a MH clinician to form a PERT Team.

Many communities are redirecting law enforcement funding to hire MH clinicians - thereby this would be budget neutral and actually save money.

A MH clinician's costs appear to be \$135,000, whereas a deputy's cost is \$195,000.

I recommend that we do the same in our county.

If we were to redirect the law enforcement funding of 2 deputies - That would allow us to hire 3 MH clinicians at no budgetary cost.

The point of the PERT Team is to enhance MH clinician services, not to further expand Law enforcement personnel.

As the report says "policing those with Behavioral health issues is a challenge for County Law Enforcement".

Thank you for your consideration of this alternate recommendation on how to expand the PERT Team.

Yours truly in our efforts to make our community response to those with behavioral issues more appropriate to get people the help they need.

Maureen Dion-Perry
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