

RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

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Chief of Police: Jason Soto /s/		
Approving Deputy Chief: Thomas Robinson/s/		
General Order No: T-420-22	Issued: August 31 st , 2022	Revised:
General Order Title: PERSONS SUFFERING FROM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ISSUES		

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Reno Police Department (RPD) to handle incidents involving persons suffering from a Behavioral Health Issue with care and expertise, ensuring that such persons receive appropriate assistance based on their needs. Diverting persons suffering from a Behavioral Health Issue away from the criminal justice system and towards treatment, whenever appropriate and available, is the desired outcome. Whenever possible, CIT trained officers and/or MOST will respond to incidents involving persons suffering from Behavioral Health Issues. The policy complies with NRS 289.680 which requires agencies to adopt policies for interacting with persons suffering from a Behavioral Health Issue.

II. DEFINITIONS

Crisis Intervention Tactics (CIT) – Actions or strategies intended to resolve incidents involving persons suffering from a Behavioral Health Issue without force or with as little force as necessitated by the person's actions.

CIT Officer – Officers who have completed RPD approved CIT Training.

Behavioral Health Issue – May include, but is not limited to: a mental health crisis as defined in NRS 433A.115; a mental illness as defined in NRS 176A.045; an acute mental health crisis, a developmental disability or an intellectual disability as defined in NRS 435.007.

Mobile Outreach Safety Team (MOST) – A unit comprised of licensed Mental Health Counselors who are capable of evaluating the needs of persons in crisis and referring them to appropriate resources. MOST members qualify as Behavioral Health Specialists as defined in NRS 289.680. Several MOST teams exist in Washoe County, but for the purposes of this general order, MOST refers to MOST team members employed by the City of Reno.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Responsibilities of Employees Interacting with a Person Suffering from Behavioral

Health Issue – Departmental employees who become involved in an interaction with a person that they reasonably believe is in crisis or suffering from a Behavioral Health Issue should, in accordance with their training, attempt to stabilize and/or de-escalate situations that they cannot remove themselves from. Otherwise, employees should request the assistance of MOST or a CIT Officer, or any officer if MOST or CIT Officers are not available.

B. CIT Officer's Responsibilities – When interacting with a person suffering from a Behavioral Health Issue, CIT Officers responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Respond to the incident in accordance with procedures based on event type.
2. Coordinate with the others involved, prior to encountering the person suffering from a Behavioral Health Issue, whenever possible.
3. Develop a reasonable response to assist the individual, through use of all available resources including but not limited to the individual's family, friends, neighbors, etc. and if known, their history.

C. MOST Responsibilities – When interacting with a person suffering from a Behavioral Health Issue, MOST responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Respond to and/or follow up on requests for assistance whenever possible.
2. Coordinate with the others on scene to develop the most appropriate method of interacting with the person suffering from a Behavioral Health Issue.
3. Determine appropriate intervention for the person suffering from a Behavioral Health Issue. Interventions may include, but aren't limited to: voluntary treatment options; legal process for involuntary commitment; or arrest, if appropriate, based on the severity of their involvement in criminal activity.
4. Assist mental health professionals or corrections personnel with information about the persons suffering from a Behavioral Health Issue.

D. Supervisor's Responsibilities - When notified of an incident involving a person suffering from a Behavioral Health Issue, supervisor's responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Evaluate calls and/or incidents involving persons suffering from a Behavioral Health Issue to determine whether or not police involvement is necessary and cancel police response or secure police officers from the scene when unnecessary.
2. Whenever possible, ensure that CIT trained officers and/or MOST respond to active incidents involving persons in crisis or suffering from a Behavioral Health Issue when, in the supervisor's opinion, police involvement is necessary.