



Snohomish County Council

Committee: LJHS
ECAF: 21-0221
Proposal: Mot. 21-170

Analyst: Heidi Beazizo
Date: May 6, 2021

Consideration

The Executive's Office requests Council consider approving proposed Motion 21-170, which would approve the Designated Crisis Responder Law Enforcement Direct Access Pilot Program Plan in response to a 2021 Budget Condition.

Background

On November 10, 2020, the Council approved the 2020 budget via Ordinance 20-075¹ including a budget condition related to a Designated Crisis Responder Law Enforcement Direct Access Pilot Program. The budget condition requested that Human Services staff, in consultation with Budget & Finance and Council staff address five (5) requests:

1. Assess the Sheriff Department and other county law enforcement interest in participating in an expanded program for Law Enforcement Direct Access to Designated Crisis Responders,
2. Determine potential workload (e.g., number of calls, location of service),
3. Prepare a staffing and implementation plan, which may consider a phased implementation approach with cost estimates for each phase and making it available to interested jurisdictions countywide. The recommendation should consider partial or full cost recovery for the cost of this expansion to interested jurisdictions;
4. Review potential sustainable funding sources and
5. Present a recommendation to the County Council no later than April 30, 2021 (Council received the plan via electronic ECAF on April 27, 2021).

The 2021 budget includes two Designated Crisis Responders and one supervisor for implementation of this Program.

Human Services and the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office met and coordinated on the budget condition response attached to the ECAF and titled, 2021 Budget Ordinance Budget Condition Response, Designated Crisis Responder Law Enforcement Direct Access Pilot Program. A proposal for the pilot is also attached to the ECAF packet and titled, Law Enforcement / DCR Direct Access Pilot.

Current Proposal

Scope: Motion 21-170 requests council approval of the plan to satisfy the 2021 Budget Condition and authorizes the use of funds allocated in the 2021 budget for the hiring of two (2) Designated Crisis Responders and one (1) supervisor.

Duration: Funding is currently provided for the 2021 budget year.

Fiscal Implications: \$254,040

2021 Budget: YES.

¹ [Public Hearing - 2021 Budget Hearing - SPECIAL MEETING \(granicus.com\)](#)

Future Budget Impacts: N/A

Handling: NORMAL.

Approved-as-to-form: N/A (FYI provided)

Risk Management: N/A (FYI provided).

Executive Recommendation: APPROVE.

Analysis: This motion and attachment respond to the budget condition as requested by council.

Attachments: TWO attachments:

1. 2021 Budget Ordinance Budget Condition Response, Designated Crisis Responder Law Enforcement Direct Access Pilot Program
2. Law Enforcement / DCR Direct Access Pilot

Amendments: NONE

Request: Move to GLS on May 12, 2021 for Council to consider taking action.

2021 Budget Ordinance Budget Condition Response

Designated Crisis Responder Law Enforcement Direct Access Pilot Program

(2) **Designated Crisis Responder Law Enforcement Direct Access Pilot Program.** The County Council requests that Human Services staff, in consultation with Budget & Finance and Council staffs, (1) assess the Sheriff Department and other county law enforcement interest in participating in an expanded program for Law Enforcement Direct Access to Designated Crisis Responders, (2) determine potential workload (e.g., number of calls, location of service), (3) prepare a staffing and implementation plan, which may consider a phased implementation approach with cost estimates for each phase and making it available to interested jurisdictions countywide. The recommendation should consider partial or full cost recovery for the cost of this expansion to interested jurisdictions; (4) review potential sustainable funding sources and (5) present a recommendation to the County Council no later than April 30, 2021.

1. Leadership from Snohomish County Human Services' Division of Behavioral Health and Veteran Services' Crisis Services Program (CS) and Snohomish County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) have met multiple times to discuss the intent of the pilot, the collegial environment necessary for the success of the pilot, the intended impact of the pilot and logistical considerations. Through this process, CS and SCSO have arrived at a shared philosophical understanding.

It is known that multiple Snohomish County law enforcement agencies are interested in having direct access to behavioral health crisis services, including Lynnwood, Mill Creek, Mukilteo, Arlington, Marysville and Monroe police departments. Once CS and SCSO came to agreement to move forward with the pilot, it did not seem prudent to conduct an assessment of the other law enforcement agencies as there are not sufficient resources to expand the pilot beyond SCSO at this juncture.

2. CS and SCSO jointly agreed to implement the pilot within SCSO's south precinct jurisdiction ([MAP](#)). After reviewing SCSO data specific to case and incident volume as well geographical spread and staffing capacity, two quadrants, or "area beats" were agreed upon within the south precinct jurisdiction. It is realistic to expect 30 to 50 deputies having the opportunity to utilize this pilot. As the pilot is implemented, capacity will be reviewed to determine if it is feasible to add a third quadrant.
3. Collaboratively, CS and SCSO have developed a staffing and implementation plan (attached). Learning from pilot expansion with SCSO will provide needed information to determine a phased implementation approach for remaining SCSO area beats as well as with other interested law enforcement agencies.

4. The Division of Behavioral Health and Veteran Services is continually seeking sustainable funding sources that allow us to expand staffing and critical programs. North Sound Behavioral Health-Associated Services Organization is aware of our pilot project and has indicated an interested in financially supporting further expansion as their funding capacity allows in the future.

5. CS and SCSO will present the jointly developed recommendation to Snohomish County Council prior to April 30, 2021.



Law Enforcement / DCR Direct Access Pilot



Proposed Expansion to Include Snohomish County Sheriff's Office

Objective: Provide deputies in designated areas of unincorporated Snohomish County with direct access to Designated Crisis Responders (DCRs) when responding to behavioral health involved calls.

Background: In July 2019, Snohomish County Human Services' Crisis Services Program and Everett Police Department initiated a pilot that provides Everett police officers direct access 24/7 to DCRs via one phone number. Snohomish County DCRs respond to any behavioral health crisis where the officer has determined that it would be beneficial for the individual to have a DCR involved.

Snohomish County's DCRs provide both voluntary crisis outreach services and involuntary investigation and detention services. Snohomish County's DCRs are licensed, master level clinicians and are designated the authority to detain individuals against their will if the statutory requirements outlined in RCW 71.05 or RCW 71.34 are met and all other efforts to stabilize and resolve the crisis have been unsuccessful. Snohomish County's DCRs strive for a 30-minute, on-site response time within the Everett city limits. The pilot allows for earlier and more immediate intervention resulting in individuals getting better care and law enforcement taking fewer people to emergency rooms and the jail.

Snohomish County Council allocated funding in the 2021 budget to allow for two additional DCRs and a supervisory FTE to be hired during second quarter of 2021 to initiate a similar pilot within Snohomish County's Sheriff's Office.

SCSO Pilot Development Steps:

1. A planning committee was convened with leadership from SCSO and Human Services' Crisis Services Program. This committee took into consideration staffing capacity, geographical spread and potential case volume when identifying the two area beats where the pilot will be initiated.
2. The planning committee reviewed available data and selected area beats B1 and C1 to initiate the SCSO pilot expansion. These area beats are adjacent to the City of Everett boundary, are considered to be more easily accessible for responded DCRs and data analysis indicated a significant need for behavioral health crisis outreach services in these two areas.
3. The planning committee determined parameters to allow for the highest opportunity of success including staffing capacity, geographical connectivity to current operations and case or incident volume in unincorporated area beats. DCRs will receive calls directly from deputies patrolling B1 and C1 area beats 24/7. Space will be made available for DCRs to use within the South Precinct.
4. The planning committee identified training needs and messaging necessary to successfully launch the pilot. SCSO and Snohomish County Human Services will prepare a training for SCSO deputies at the South Precinct. This training will incorporate the dissemination of the Direct Access telephone number as well as capacity of DCR's to provide immediate intervention for those in crisis as well as follow up with individuals who frequently experience crisis but do not reach the level of emergent detention (high utilizers).



Law Enforcement / DCR Direct Access Pilot



5. Data collection will be conducted in accordance with existing data collection practices by Human Services.
6. The Planning Committee is in agreement that ongoing collaboration and communication is critical for the success of the pilot. A SCSO Sergeant will be assigned to oversee this pilot. The Sergeant will initially meet weekly with DCR Supervisors to foster strong communications and to problem-solve unexpected issues that are likely to arise.

Committee Recommendation: The planning committee concluded the area which provides the greatest opportunity to impact the largest number of citizens needing crisis services via law enforcement direct access is by expanding current direct access services into the unincorporated area beats of B1 and C1.