

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.