

Crisis Response: Alternatives to Law Enforcement

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Shortcomings of Law Enforcement Crisis Response

- Most crises are health care events.
- Law enforcement not designed to provide a health care response.
- Law enforcement interprets behaviors as risks rather than manifestation of a behavioral health disorder.
- Command and control approach inappropriate.
- Mitigated in Oregon by Crisis Intervention Team training. But still doesn't lead to a health care-centered approach.

Improving Law Enforcement Response

- Invest more in Crisis Intervention Team trainings.
- Standardize CIT curriculum.
- Assist smaller agencies.
- Require ongoing training.

Alternatives to Law Enforcement

- Remove law enforcement from equation.
- Improve triaging.
- Require uniformity in crisis response.
- Treat as an actual crisis. Adopt sense of urgency.
 - *Current OAR response times: Urban 1 hour, Rural 2 hours, Frontier 3 hours.*
- Require all payers to contribute.

Treat Behavioral Health As Health Care

- Decriminalize behavioral health disorders.
- Continue integration efforts.
- Enforce parity across all of health care.
 - *Parity = Treatments and supports that treat underlying condition.*
- Invest in identification and intervention closer to onset.

Intervening Earlier & Preventing Crises

- Half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14 and three-quarters, or 75 percent, by age 24.

