

McHenry County Co-Responder Police Social Worker Program



Mission:

To bridge the gap between law enforcement and social services in McHenry County by connecting citizens with mental health resources and long-term resolutions, in order to alleviate the obligation of law enforcement's response to mental health related calls for service.

Law Enforcement Officers

Officers identified by their respective agencies to receive specialized mental health training, including CIT. These officers will build relationships with social services and mental health providers to connect community members in need to those appropriate services.

Police Social Worker Team

This group will assist in the education of officers, respond to calls for service, provide guidance to officers and assist in connecting people to services. Accessibility would be provided to participating police departments 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Service Providers

PSWs will build relationships with service providers and programs in McHenry County such as: Specialty Courts, McHenry County Mental Health Board, A Way-Out McHenry County, Turning Point, BBBS, Rosecrance, Pioneer Center, Senior Services, etc.

The expectation of law enforcement is changing. Through this collaborative effort, our local law enforcement can meet and exceed state mandates, including Public Act 101-0652, by providing our communities with necessary services.

Police Social Workers (PSW) will be assigned to dedicated police agencies as their primary assignment. A 24/7 on-call schedule will be created for a PSW to be available by phone for consultation and/or to respond to calls for service. Each PSW will develop a relationship with their assigned agency and be a resource for training. A Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC) will serve as a Clinical Supervisor, providing supervision and support to all program PSWs.

Overseeing the program will be a Program Director. The Director possesses experience and knowledge in law enforcement services and social services in McHenry County. The Director will ensure services are being provided to police agencies through PSWs and social services. The team will be supported by an Administrative Assistant, aiding with data entry, tracking, grant and funding requirements, scheduling, and communication.

Each participating police agency would identify a team leader that would serve as the primary department contact and liaison to the designated PSW and Director regarding cases. The liaisons would help train officers and manage programs at their respective departments.

Building rapport with the community is necessary for the success of the McHenry County Co-Responder Social Services Program. By working collaboratively, the program will be able to bridge gaps between cross-jurisdictional families and form dependable relationships with individuals, clinicians, providers, and other agencies.