Overview
DBHIDS envisions a crisis system in which there is “no wrong door” to behavioral health treatment. Crisis services are available 24/7 to everyone, anywhere. Philadelphia’s approach to behavioral health crises is to develop a continuum of response options for the needs and circumstances of each 911 or Philadelphia Crisis Line call.

Community Mobile Crisis Response Teams (CMCRT)
CMCRTs consist of behavioral health professionals, a licensed practical nurse, and a certified peer or recovery specialist or a family member trained to provide crisis services within the community, with a focus on resolving or ameliorating the crisis. Staff will provide:
- short-term rapid response
- crisis stabilization
- case management services

CMCRT services are resolution-focused, with referrals to new services occurring as clinically indicated, as well as coordination with existing services.

In 2019 the existing CMCRT was dispatched 2,276 times across the city.

Expanding from 2 CMCRT providers to 4 full-time CMCRT providers, and enhancing the model, establishing 24/7 city-wide coverage.

Crisis Intervention Response Teams (CIRT)
Launched in April 2021, the CIRT pilot includes a behavioral health specialist paired with a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)-trained police officer, who together respond to de-escalate behavioral health crisis-related incidents.

Click here to view DBHIDS’ complete Behavioral Health Crisis Response Continuum factsheet.

Philadelphia Crisis Line
direct support for individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis 215-685-6440

40-hour evidence-informed training program for law enforcement in support of to enhance training, education, and coordination of services.

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In the initial pilot phase, CIRT Teams and CIRT Outreach Teams are operational within Regional Operations Command (ROC) North and ROC South.

The program also includes two peer-based follow-up teams.

De-escalating Behavioral Health Crises:
- Rapid response to all referrals from 911 dispatch, patrol officer request, or self-initiation.
- The Behavioral Health Professional will provide services to engage the individual in crisis.

Reducing the use of force on and arrests of individuals with behavioral health challenges:
- Prioritizes assisting individuals in obtaining relief and regaining a sense of understanding and control.
- Crisis stabilization through evidence-based/evidence-informed interventions.

Increasing access to treatment and other services in the community:
- Solution-based care coordination to connect individuals to appropriate levels of care, community services and supports.
- Outreach team assists in making referrals, scheduling appointments, and ensuring appointment attendance when indicated.

In the initial pilot phase, CIRT Teams and CIRT Outreach Teams are operational within Regional Operations Command (ROC) North and ROC South.

Proposed Expansion Overview:

Emergency Response System
- 911 Residents
- Call-Takers (Behavioral Health Navigator and modified CIT Training including de-escalation)
- Fire/EMS Dispatch
- Police Dispatch Radio Band
- Patrol Officers

Behavioral Health Crisis Response System
- 215-685-6440
- Philadelphia Crisis Line
- CIRT
- CMCRT

New Enhancements:
- Police
- Medical
- Behavioral Health

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