JOPLIN POLICE DEPT.
CO-RESPONDER UNIT





PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Joplin Police Department Co-Responder Unit (CRU) addresses social determinants of health (SDOH) and behavioral health concerns in our community through innovative crisis intervention and service connection.

**The unit is comprised of three (3) full-time civilian employees supplied by the Ozark Center.

**Working hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00am-9:00pm

CRU Goals:

1. Enhance safety and well-being for our citizens and officers.
2. Prevent injury to the mental health consumer when possible.
3. Reduce the over-utilization of emergency services
   (i.e. 911 service calls and calls for service involving people in need of mental health services)
4. Make the mental health system more understandable and accessible to mental health consumers and their family members.
5. Maximize police resources by proactively preventing criminal acts from occurring.
6. Collaborate with local agencies that deal with mental disorders and substance abuse issues when addressing mental health consumers.
7. Communicate with local prosecutors and judges to identify mental health consumers who have committed specific types of crimes and could benefit from ***treatment over incarceration***.

Evidence-Based Community Impact

- 520 total referrals since October 2024 launch
- 79.6% referral success rate (414 successful connections)
- 273 Mental & behavioral health referrals (52.5%)

Cost-Benefit Projections

- Based on peer-reviewed research from comparable programs, the JPD-CRU program generates substantial cost savings across multiple system domains. Conservative estimates project annual savings ranging from $950,000 to $1.7 million
  - $500,000 to $800,000 through reduced hospitalizations
  - $200,000 to $400,000 savings in decreased jail bookings
  - $150,000 to $300,000 in officer time efficiency gains
  - $100,00 to $200,000 in emergency department diversions
  - With an estimated annual program investment of approximately $300,000, the net return on investment ranges from 217% to 467%.

Evidence-Based Benefits

24% reduction in arrest likelihood

42% decrease in emergency psychiatric costs

57% reduction in emergency department visits

Enhanced crisis de-escalation capabilities

Improved police-community relations

ACTIVE COLLABORATIONS:

· Local mental health centers

· Substance abuse treatment facilities

· Housing assistance programs

· Transportation services

· Healthcare providers

· Social service agencies

· Faith-based organizations

The JPD-CRU program represents smart government - using evidence-based approaches to deliver better outcomes at lower costs while addressing root causes of community challenges.

It is an investment in both ***public safety and community wellness*** that pays for itself multiple times over.