

125.10
ARRIVE TOGETHER PROGRAM:

125.10.1

POLICY: It is the policy of the Woodbridge Police Department to jointly participate in the ARRIVE Together program with other jurisdictions to enhance and support response to certain behavioral crisis calls. In addition, to assist individuals experiencing a mental health crisis obtain access to care and treatment and to reduce the risk of violent behavior during interactions with individuals experiencing a mental health crisis and Law Enforcement.

125.10.2

PURPOSE: The purpose of the ARRIVE together program is to provide an additional tool for the Woodbridge Police Department when responding to certain behavioral crisis calls. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on the ARRIVE together program.

125.10.3

DEFINITIONS:

- A. **ARRIVE PROGRAM:** The ARRIVE program pairs a law enforcement officer who has completed Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) or will complete within one year with a certified mental health screener provided by Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care to respond together to calls for behavioral health crises.
- B. **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDER (MHSP):** Means a mental health screener as defined by N.J.S.A. 30:4-27.2 or other qualified specialist, such as a crisis intervention specialist, therapist, social worker, psychiatrist, psychologist, nurse, or other professional possessing the relevant academic training or experience to do outreach for the purposes of clinical screening.
- C. **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS CALLS:** Means emergency calls for service received by the 911 system or by the Mental Health Service Provider (MHSP), which involve:
 - 1. Behavioral/mental health
 - 2. Confused/disoriented person
 - 3. Welfare check
 - 4. Suicide
 - 5. Other categories that the Participating Police Department(PPD) deems appropriately related to behavioral health identified during the course of the program.

125.10.4

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Woodbridge Police Department is a PPD in the ARRIVE Program in Middlesex County. The other PPD's in Middlesex County are New Brunswick, Highland Park and Edison. The ARRIVE program will respond to behavioral health calls in these municipalities. The law enforcement officer and MHSP will respond together to emergency service calls and/or follow up visits that relate to behavioral health crisis.

125.10.5

PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. **Frequency:** The program will be implemented weekly on the days determined by the parties, and at times of the highest volume of behavioral health crisis calls for service determined by the PPD's, in consultation with the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS).
 - 1. Each PPD shall determine a staffing schedule for their officers.
 - 2. Regardless of where the participating officer is based, the program will always respond to qualifying calls in any of the participating municipalities identified in Section 125.10.4.
 - 3. Shift times will be determined by the PPD's, and may be altered if, in consultation with DHS and the MHSP, the PPD's determine that significantly greater relevant calls for service consistently occur at different times.

B. Departmental Responsibilities:

1. This department shall perform all necessary tasks required to implement the program , including, during responses to qualifying emergency calls for service, the participating officer shall assess and take measures to secure the environment in order to mitigate the potential for harm to the officer, mental health specialist, client, and any bystanders.
2. This department shall make available the qualified officers required to implement the program, and shall ensure all requisite training (including the requirement that all officers participating in the initiative successfully complete CIT training within one year) and certifications have been obtained by participating officers.
3. This department shall implement operational changes, as it deems necessary, to implement the program.
4. This department shall provide the equipment necessary for participating officers to perform their duties under the program, including providing an unmarked vehicle during the course of the program.
5. The department shall advise each participating MHSP specialist on the proper procedures and protocols for riding in a law enforcement vehicle and/or responding to calls with a police officer prior to any MHSP specialist participating in the program.
6. This department shall cooperate with the MHSP, other participating Law Enforcement Agency Partners within the county, as identified herein, as well as DHS, DMHAS, and LPS, to facilitate and execute the goals of the program. This department shall not request that the MHSP perform any activities that conflict with the Screening Law or Screening Regulations
7. This department shall ensure their participating officers follow all applicable Law Enforcement Directives and Guidelines issued by the Attorney General of New Jersey, as updated, amended, or supplemented.

125.10.6:

COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITY:

- A. The program will respond to behavioral crisis calls for service listed in Section 125.10.3 C.
1. If the origin of the request for service is the 911 Communications Center of the law enforcement agency currently assigned to the program unit, that center shall directly contact the program unit for dispatch.
 2. If the origin of the request for service is the 911 Communications Center of the law enforcement agency not currently assigned to the program unit, that center shall directly contact the Communications Center of the other agency and provide all required information to facilitate the dispatch of the program unit.
 - a. In such instances, the originating Communications Center shall ensure that a primary patrol unit is dispatched. The preferred response should include a CIT trained officer if available.
 3. When the Communications Center has been made aware that an involved individual may be armed with a weapon, the closest available unit shall be initially assigned to the response. Upon the scene being secured and safe, the MHSP will be permitted to enter the location of the call.
 4. This department's Communication Center shall ensure that all CAD information is accurately entered to any service call involving the program that takes place in Woodbridge Township or involves a Woodbridge Police Department Officer.
- B. The Communications Center receiving the request for service is responsible for obtaining as much information as possible about the person in crisis as well as the situation so that information can be relayed to the program unit prior to response.
- C. The Communications Center in the jurisdiction of the request for service will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate additional police units are dispatched to the call and are notified that the program unit is responding.

125.10.7:

PERSONNEL:

- A. Each PPD will provide one or more experienced law enforcement officers who complete Crisis Intervention Team (“CIT”) training or will complete within one year. Participating Officers will not wear full uniform during the Program shifts, and instead will wear a polo shirt with an agency logo, or similar, and will drive an unmarked vehicle.
- B. At each service call, the officers will identify themselves as law enforcement officers and ensure that the scene is safe before the MHSP specialist exits the police vehicle, to ensure there are no violent or potentially violent actors on scene, and remain at the scene while the Screener provides services. If the screening becomes unsafe, the officer will take over the lead. The MHSP will step away and follow the officers instructions.
- C. The PPDs shall advise each specialist identified by the participating MHSP on the proper procedures and protocols for riding in an unmarked police vehicle and responding to calls with an officer prior to any specialist participating in the Program.
- D. The MHSP will provide one or more experienced specialists to participate in the Program. The participating specialists will perform crisis intervention and screening services consistent with their statutory and regulatory duties at each call for service.
- E. The Officer will transport the MHSP specialist to calls for service in an unmarked police vehicle. The officer will not respond to other calls for service while transporting the MHSP specialist except for those behavioral health crisis calls as defined below. In the event of an emergency that needs the officer’s immediate attention and is in the officer’s plain view, such as a motor vehicle accident or serious injury, the officer will stop to provide immediate assistance until further police assistance arrives. In the event of a call involving a life-threatening emergency, the officer will only respond to the call upon the direction of their supervisor and will first transport the MHSP specialist to the closest safe location prior to responding to the call.
- F. Daily supervision of the program unit when a Woodbridge Police Officer(s) is assigned will be the Radio Patrol on-duty Shift Commander.
- G. The assigned program officer shall ensure that the required incident reports are completed for any incidents occurring in their jurisdiction. Incident reports for incidents occurring in another jurisdiction shall be the responsibility of the assigned responding officer from that jurisdiction at the time of the incident. Incident Reports shall include a complete record of actions taken, the notification and response of the program unit and the disposition of the incident. In cases where the program officer is not from the jurisdiction where the incident occurred, the assigned patrol officer from that jurisdiction shall be responsible for completing all required reports.

125.10.8:

COVERAGE:

- A. The Program will respond to all behavioral health crisis calls for service made to the PPDs’ 911 system, including those originating from the public, those incoming from other law enforcement officers or agencies within the area, and those incoming from the MHSP to the PPDs and/or their 911 systems.
- B. The Program will respond to crisis calls originating from the psychiatric emergency screening service within the identified area and 9-8-8 calls from individuals residing in the locales where the program operates.
- C. The Program will respond to qualifying calls made to the municipality(ies) identified in 125.10.4., regardless of whether the officer participating in the shift is based in that municipality. During cross-jurisdictional responses (e.g., municipal officer transporting the MHSP specialist to a location in another municipality), the officer’s responsibility is to bring the MHSP specialist to the location of the call, where the MHSP specialist will be met by officers (CIT trained where possible) from the municipality from which the call originated who will be responsible for securing the scene before the MHSP specialist enters. At the scene, the program officer shall remain with the vehicle, and shall only provide assistance if specifically requested by the officers on scene.
- D. When not responding to calls for service, the Program participants will proactively undertake follow-up visits with individuals from prior services or initiate contact with individuals identified as at-risk through other means.

125.10.9:

DATA COLLECTION AND EVALUATION:

- A. PPDs and MHSPs shall collect data relevant to the assessment of the program, as specified by the Department of Law and Public Safety (LPS) and/or Department of Human Services (DHS), Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).
- B. Should LPS retain an academic institution to perform an evaluation of the Program the Parties and Participating Agencies agree, upon request, to provide the retained academic institution access to relevant data, subject to appropriate privacy and cybersecurity protections, to include 911 or computer-aided dispatch (CAD) data and interviews of participating employees, for the purposes of performing the assessment. The academic institution shall execute any required confidentiality agreements. If personally identifiable information is being shared, a confidentiality agreement must be HIPAA compliant. 45 C.F.R. 164.512(i).