

Memo To: President Scaman and Village Board of Trustees

Memo From: Interim Village Manager Shelley

Date: November 5, 2021

Re: Board Request to Add Funds for the Community Safety project

Staff added \$50,000 to the Village Manager's external support account per the Village Board's request. The larger conversation with this request is of course any recommendations for alternative police response systems. Given that this type of program can vary greatly, the \$50,000 is just a place-holder and may or may not cover a recommendation of this nature and it is hard to predict given that the consultant was just approved at the last regular meeting of the Village Board.

As added background I did ask the Police Chief to provide some basic information regarding the cost of current mental health support services the Village does use in coordination with an emergency response. Below is some information.

First, here is a summary from the Police Department regarding the current system in place:

The Oak Park Police Department has contracted with THRIVE (formerly known as Oak Park Family Services) for at least the past 25 years, to provide crisis intervention services. These services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Traditional crisis intervention cases are handled in the following manner:

1. Officers either encounter, or are dispatched to a call for service involving an individual potentially experiencing a mental health crisis. Calls for service that may require THRIVE assistance are typically classified as follows:
 - domestic disturbances/violence
 - criminal sexual assaults
 - juvenile arrests
 - older adult crisis
 - Juvenile in crisis
 - lost or homeless persons
 - victim assistance post incident
 - all other situations determined to be cases that can be better handled by a social agency
2. Once on scene, Officers will determine if a THRIVE counsellor is required for assistance. Several factors contribute to this determination, and can include information gathered at the scene from family members, the Officers own observations, past history, etc.
3. Once a determination is made that THRIVE counsellors are needed, Officers will notify WSCDC.
4. WSCDC will contact THRIVE directly (if during normal business hours) or the on-call THRIVE counsellor if after hours.

5. Prior to the COVID 19 pandemic, THRIVE counsellors would respond directly to the scene (typical response times range from 15 minutes to 1 hour). Post COVID, and if the situation allows, counsellors will call the location directly in an attempt to assess the situation.
6. As part of their assessment, counsellors will primarily determine if the individual is a danger to themselves or others.
7. If the individual does not appear to be a danger to themselves or others, the counsellor will work with the individual (and their family, if present) to schedule follow up counselling services. If the individual is already utilizing THRIVE or another private counselling service for treatment, the THRIVE counsellor will attempt to make contact with that counsellor to coordinate any additional services that may be needed.
8. If the counsellor deems the individual to be a danger to themselves or others, the counsellor will initiate the petition for committal process. If not already present, OPFD will be called to the scene at that time, and the individual will be transported (via OPFD ambulance) to Rush Oak Park Hospital or, on occasion, West Suburban for a physical exam. OPPD officers will escort the ambulance to the hospital.
9. Once the individual is admitted, this ends the Officers involvement, who will then complete a report documenting the incident.
10. Upon completion of the aforementioned physical exam, the individual will be committed to a psychiatric hospital (typically McNeal Hospital). Committal is generally limited to 72 hours.

In addition to traditional crisis intervention cases, Officers can utilize THRIVE as a resource through the following specialized programs:

- Minors Requiring Authoritative Intervention (MRAI) - This program provides intensive counseling services and foster placement, when necessary, to youth who have run away or who have been locked out of their homes.
- Assistance to Victims and Witnesses of Violent Crime - Specialized services include counseling, advocacy (active support), and community education.
- Family Service Youth Offender Project - Provides individual and family counseling to juvenile offenders. A station adjustment may be used as the means to refer for counseling.
- T.I.M.E. Program - The Teen Initiative for Meeting Expectations (T.I.M.E.) program provides supervised community service for youths age 12-17 who have committed minor offenses. Youths are referred to the program by courts and by youth officers as an arrest disposition.

To give the Village Board a snapshot of the funds paid to THRIVE since 2010 for the services described above, CFO Drazner ran a report on for direct payments to THRIVE which totaled **1,550,594.56**. In addition, there are also CDBG and IL Department of Public Health grants awarded to them for another \$47,700.