



SPUR Meeting Notes: Mobile Crisis Units and Quality of Life Teams

April 2023

Meeting Summary

Mobile Crisis Units and Quality of Life Teams can help connect individuals with the services needed. The most common type of call to a crisis hotline (like 988) is someone experiencing suicidal ideation. If that situation evolves and becomes an imminent crisis, a behavioral health expert can be dispatched to that individual's location to help manage the situation. Mobile crisis units can resolve most mental health crises without the need for law enforcement involvement.

Key Takeaways

- The goal of Mobile Crisis Services is to:
 - Meet the individual in need in an environment where they are comfortable.
 - Help to resolve the situation in that moment and avoid the need for law enforcement involvement or in-patient psychiatric care.
- The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has a Mobile Crisis Grant Program that is working to set up centers in high need areas, so Mobile Crisis Units are available to anyone, anytime, anywhere for the area that they serve.
- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) can be a great option where an individual in crisis can safely go and avoid intervention from law enforcement or in-patient care. See: <https://www.samhsa.gov/certified-community-behavioral-health-clinics>
- SAMHSA provides a Crisis Intervention Best Practice Toolkit: <https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/implementing-behavioral-health-crisis-care>
- Police Departments may apply for an FRA grant to start a Quality-of-Life program to help bring services directly to individuals who need them and are near the railroad property.
 - These Quality-of-Life programs can be critical as many individuals may be unlikely to seek out care on their own, even with encouragement, so bringing services to them is preferred.
 - Members of a Quality-of-Life team go through training in crisis intervention and mental health to help manage potential situations
 - Not everyone will accept help and there can still be repeated issues, but programs like this have been incredibly successful and help connect individuals with services and improve relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve.