

# **Town of Orangetown Police Reform Committee**

**Minutes - November 10, 2020**

**Present:**

Special Guest, Ray Florida, Executive Director BHRT  
Special Guest, Jessica Nobile, BHRT  
Teresa Kenny, Orangetown Supervisor  
Donald Butterworth, Chief of Police (virtual)  
Michael Shannon, Police Captain (virtual)  
Denis Troy, Town Councilman  
Don Hammond, Nyack Mayor (virtual)  
Dominic Crispino, First Assistant District Attorney  
Barbara Gionta, First Assistant District Attorney  
Tanya Gayle, Nyack NAACP & Office of the Public Defender (virtual)  
John McGowan, County Legislator, Youth Court & Pearl River resident  
Brandon D. McLaughlin, Pastor of St. Charles AME Zion Church (virtual)  
Willie Outlaw, Tappan Resident (virtual)  
Nicholas S. Whalen, Orangetown Sergeant & PBA President (virtual)  
Elizabeth Brancati, Deputy Town Attorney (virtual)  
Michael Lawler, Deputy Town Supervisor  
Allison Kardon, Clerk

**Not Present:**

Nicole Hines, Center for Safety and Change

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**1. Presentation from Ray Florida from BHRT (Behavioral Health Response Team)**

see attached brochure and 2019 Annual Report.

Some highlights:

- a. Started in 2015, works with Rockland Department of Health
- b. All licensed EMT and mental health professionals
- c. All trained in crisis intervention and de-escalation
- d. Provides free 24/7, 365 days/year outreach and support for mental health crises
- e. Safely treats clients over the phone and in-person
- f. Staff wears street clothes and cars have no sirens and are unmarked
- g. Funded through NYS OMH (Office of Mental Health) so there is no charge for their services and all interviews are confidential
- h. Approx. 20-30 minute response time – covers all of Rockland County
- i. Provides Home-Based Crisis Intervention (HBCI), a 5-6 week program to help stabilize families
- j. Has substance abuse counselors
- k. Outreach at home or anywhere in Rockland County (coffee shop)
- l. Will send to hospital, if needed—under 18 goes to Westchester while adults go to Nyack
- m. Well over 85% of phone calls are without police intervention (2000 last year and only 142 involved police – 7.1%)
- n. Have asked the police to leave when police presence is not necessary, so patients are not in the criminal justice system

- o. Supervisor suggests that they make a presentation at Town Board meeting so public can learn about their services.
- p. Police will call BHRT and BHRT will call police, if needed.
- q. BHRT does follow up with patients
- r. Not as busy during pandemic
- s. Starting Telemedicine
- t. Need to train 911 operators in mental health to triage calls
- u. Presence in schools but works with staff not SRO (school resource officer)
- v. Nick Whalen: Police are trained a minimum 1x a year in mental health
- w. Nick Whalen: BHRT Orangetown response time can be too long – need additional units
- x. Nick Whalen: BHRT will be integrated into the Police Academy

## **2. Member updates from last meeting:**

- a) **Don Hammond – coach/teacher from Nyack HS?** Yes, Gerald Jones – will reach out
- b) **Don Hammond/Nick Whalen – outreach to the Hispanic Community?** Kim Cross will provide Latino contact.
- c) **Teresa Kenny –**
  - Survey Monkey – Check with IT, need it translated in Spanish & Haitian Creole. Center for Safety & Change might help, Mayor Hammond knows someone. Some residents might be intimidated so Nyack and Pride Centers will work with them.
  - Nyack Center (Kim Cross will help with Survey and make presentation);
  - Pride Center (Brooke Malloy will help with Survey and make presentation);
  - Mental Health Committee of Rockland Coalition to End the New Jim Crow (Invited for Dec 1<sup>st</sup> meeting)

## **3. Sub-Committee Assignments (Appendix page 120 attached)**

- a. **Use of force;**
- b. **Procedural justice;**
- c. **Any studies addressing systematic racial bias or racial justice in policing;**
- d. **Implicit bias awareness;**
- e. **De-escalation training and practices;**
- f. **Law enforcement assisted diversion programs;**
- g. **Restorative justice practices;**
- h. **Community out-reach and conflict resolution**
- i. **Problem-oriented policing;**
- j. **Hot spots policing;**
- k. **Focused deterrence;**
- l. **Crime prevention through environmental design;**
- m. **Violence prevention and reduction interventions;**
- n. **Model policies and guidelines promulgated by the New York State Municipal Police Training Council;**
- o. **Standards promulgated by the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Program; Some of these are covered by accreditation**

- p. **Other?** 28% Police Agencies are accredited in NYS. They have 130 standards to satisfy. Every four years they are fully audited. 20-40 standards are looked at every year. Some of the above (a-o) are covered in the accreditation. Police will let us know which ones.

**4. Next Date 12/1/2020 at 6 pm, Town Hall Multipurpose Room and Virtual**

- a. Mental Health Committee of Rockland Coalition to End the New Jim Crow will present for 20 minutes and answer questions.
- b. Chief Butterworth and Captain Shannon will explain the accreditation process and criteria.

# Rockland County, your voice matters!



## The Rockland County Sheriff's Department Police Reform Committee would like to hear from you!

Please join us to discuss how we can build relationships between police and community members. We will also have an open dialogue about public safety in our county.

When: Thursday 11/5/2020

Time: 6PM - 8PM

ZOOM Meeting ID: 882 5606 9757

ZOOM Password: 12345

Registration Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0jx5VCZnSfanz4NGM7VNiQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0jx5VCZnSfanz4NGM7VNiQ)



**Adults**

When: Friday 11/6/2020

Time: 6PM - 8PM

ZOOM Meeting ID: 873 9083 7807

ZOOM Password: GenZ

Registration Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_lpsq7dBhSL6ncmlJjpv4Xw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lpsq7dBhSL6ncmlJjpv4Xw)



**Generation Z**

You will also be able to join us live via Facebook at:



[Humanity in Action: Rockland County](#)

For more information or questions please email us at: [Scollaborative2020@gmail.com](mailto:Scollaborative2020@gmail.com)





# BHRT 2019 Annual Report

Timothy P. Egan, EMT-P, CACO, CAC  
Chief Information Officer  
Updated January 23, 2020



## 2019-By the Numbers

- Telephonic Triage and Crisis Response – 1124
  - Mobile Crisis Response – 867
- Overall Crisis Responses: 1991
- In addition to the requested classifications:
  - Alerts – 203
  - General Inquiry – 183
- Overall TOTAL contacts: 2377







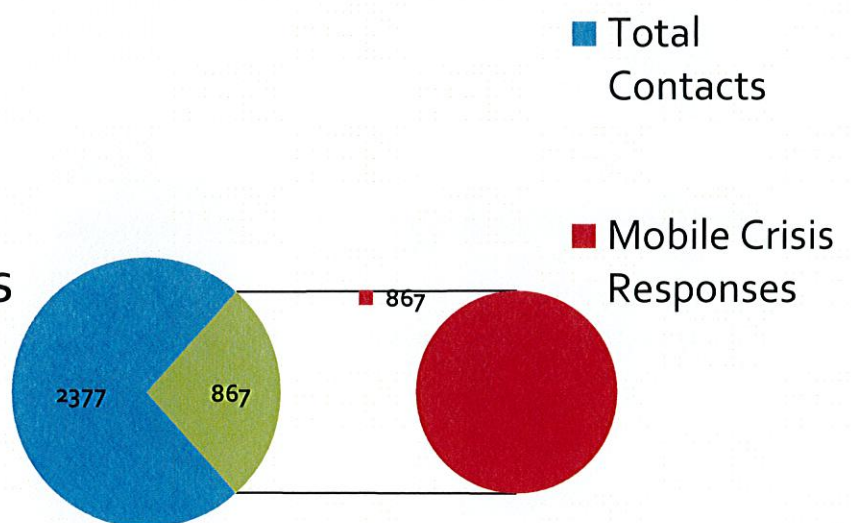
## Mobile Crisis Response - Demographic Information

- 494 of the 867 Mobile Crisis Responses were new clients
  - Of the 494 New clients:
    - 177 male
    - 193 female
    - 1 Transgender
    - 123 unidentified gender
- 91 <20 years
- 142 Mobile Crisis Responses with Police (17%)
  - 348 in 2018 (36%)
  - 386 in 2017 (40%)



## Total Contacts vs. Mobile Crisis Response

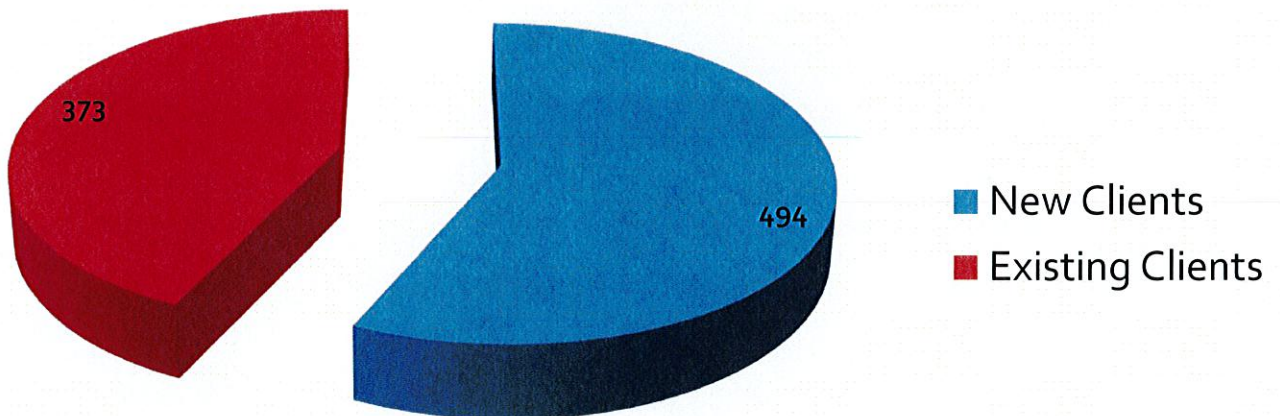
- 2377 total contacts
  - Resulted in 867 Mobile Crisis Responses





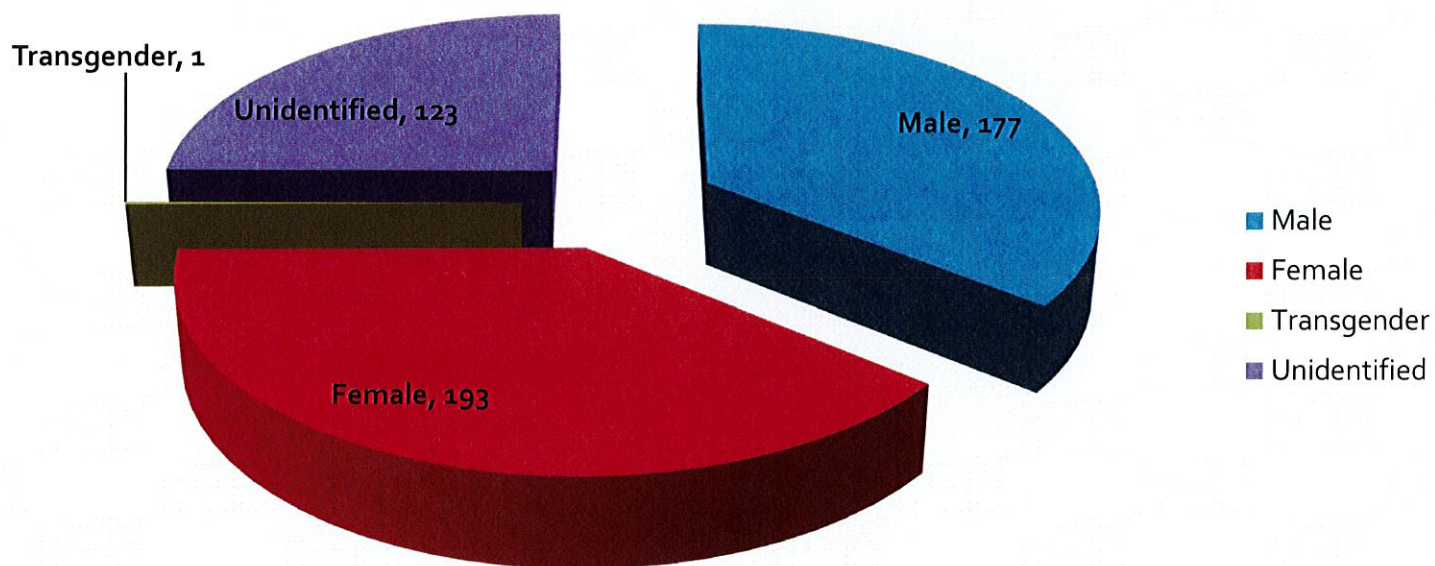


## Mobile Crisis Response New vs. Existing Clients



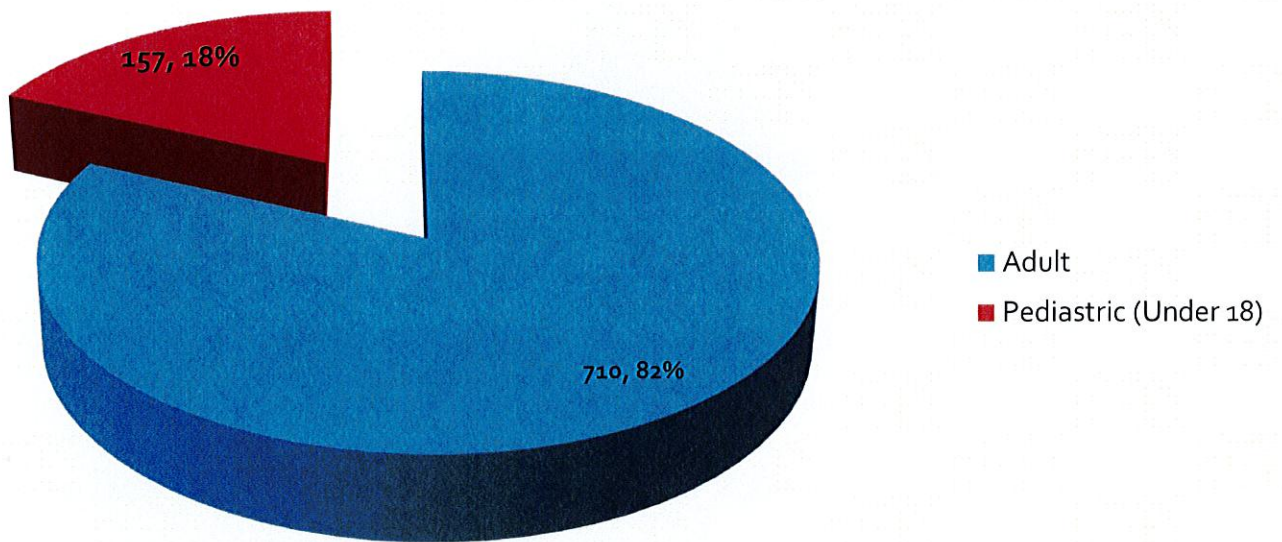


## Gender Distribution of New Clients





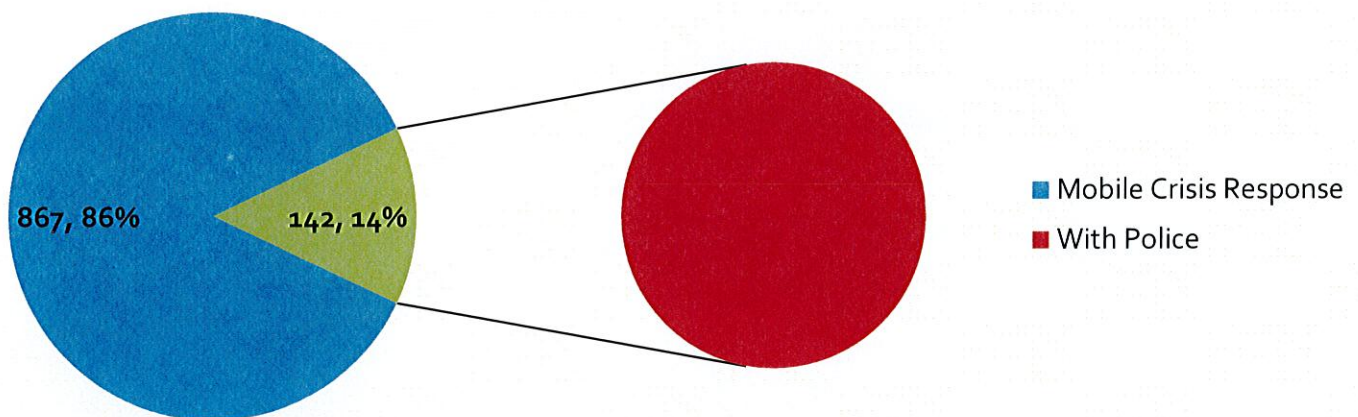
## Mobile Crisis Response Age Distribution







## Mobile Crisis Response with PD



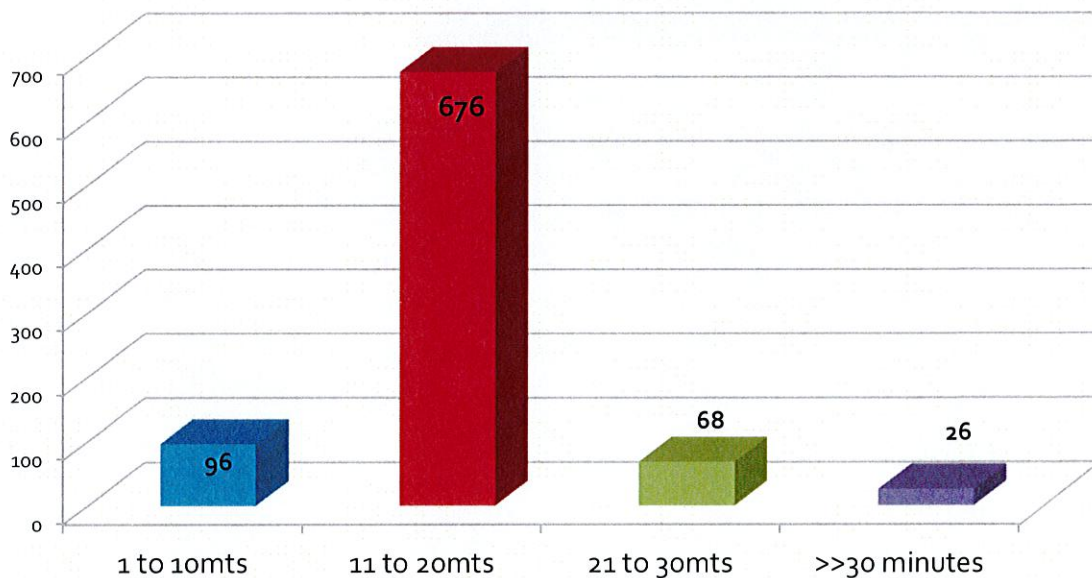
***14% of Mobile Crisis Responses were  
with Police***





## Key Performance Indicators

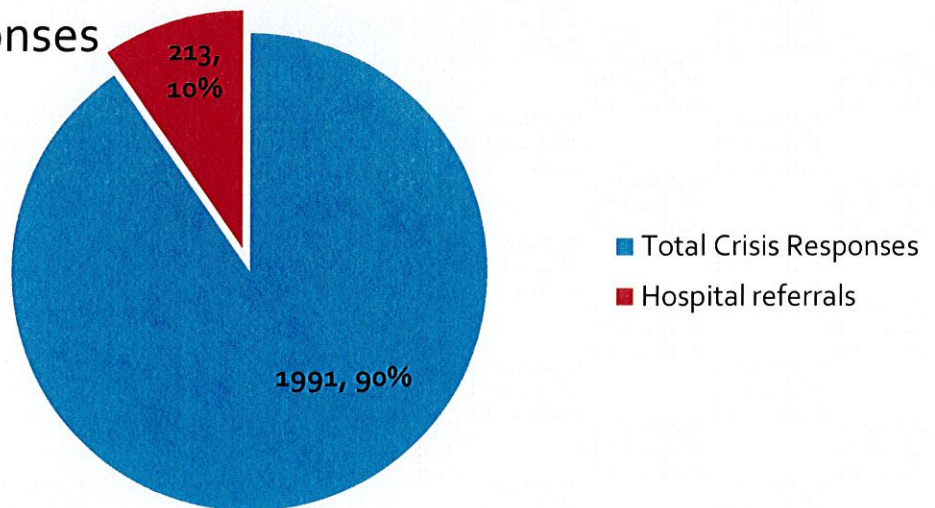
- The Mobile Crisis Team will respond to requests for Crisis Intervention within 35 minutes of receiving information from the caller 90% of the time.
  - Average response time for 2019 is 15.27 minutes





## Key Performance Indicators

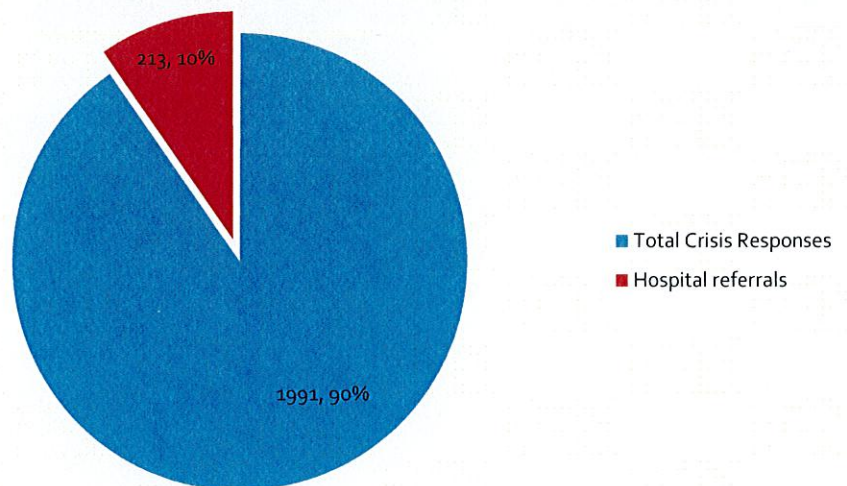
- At least 70% of all Crisis Responses will be referred to community resources other than the ED.
  - 89.3% of all Crisis Responses are referred to services other than the ED
  - 1991 Crisis Responses
  - 213 ED Referrals





## Key Performance Indicators

- We expect no less than 30% of those needing to be transported to an emergency department will be admitted to the hospital.
  - 52.3% of ED referrals were admitted in 2019
    - 213 ED Referrals
    - 112 Admissions

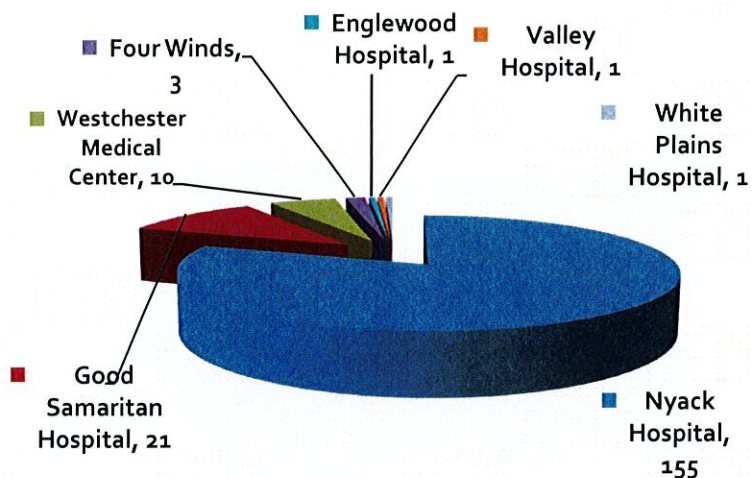






## 2019 Hospital ED Referrals/Admissions

- 213 Hospital/ED Referrals
- 112 Admissions



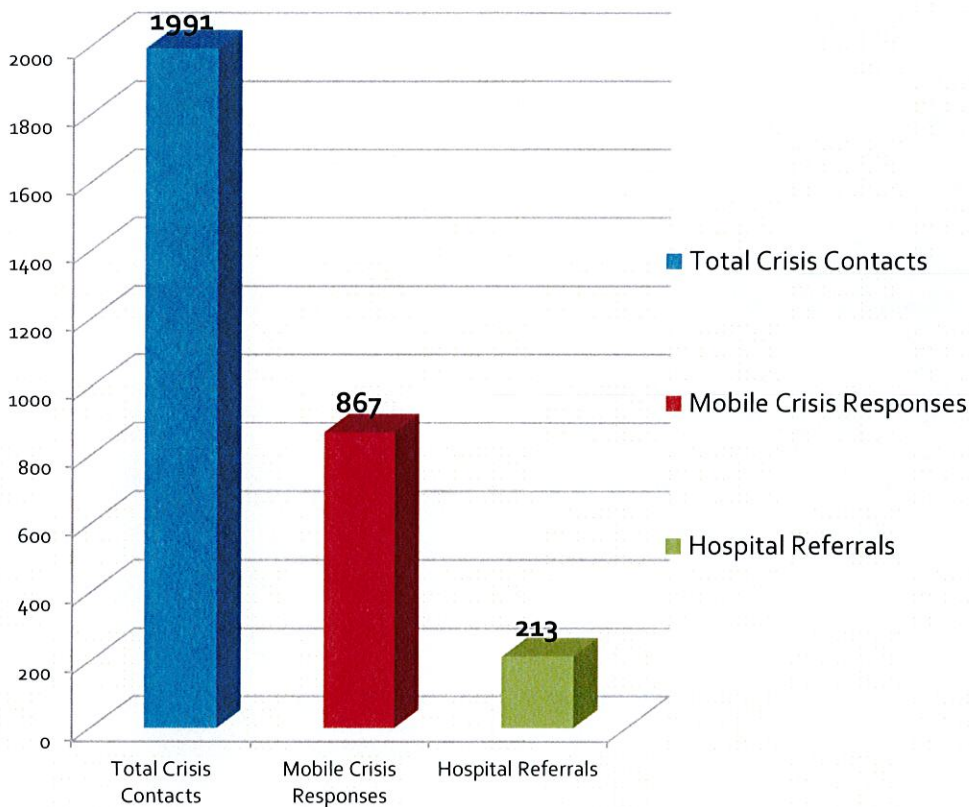
Montefiore-Nyack	78
WMC-Good Samaritan	14
Four Winds	1
Westchester Medical	8
Unknown	11

*52.6% of Hospital Referrals were admitted*





## Mobile Crisis Response vs. Hospital/ED Referrals



Hospital/ED referrals are only 10.7% of total Crisis Contacts, and 24.6% of Mobile Crisis Responses

# Providing **FREE 24 Hour** Outreach and Support for:

- Emotional Distress or Trauma
- Anxiety or Depression
- Crisis Intervention
- Suicidal Thoughts
- Alcohol or Drug Abuse
- Serious Mental Illness



Call us 24/7 and  
we'll talk to you  
over the phone or  
send a team to  
your location

Listen to our  
"**Healthy Attitudes**"  
radio show the first  
Thursday of every month  
on WRCR AM 1700.

A Free Service to Help  
Anyone in Rockland County  
Experiencing a  
Mental Health Crisis.

**Don't wait. Get help.**

*"Improving mental health and  
substance abuse services is a top  
priority of my administration. The  
Behavioral Health Response Team  
(BHRT) offers immediate help to  
adults, teens and children,  
wherever and whenever crisis  
intervention is needed, while  
assuring their safety and the safety  
of those around them."*

~Rockland County Executive Ed Day

Grant Funded by NYSOMH through  
Rockland County

Operated by  
Rockland Paramedic Services  
Ray Florida, Director



Twitter: @RocklandBHRT  
[www.facebook.com/BHRTGetHelp](http://www.facebook.com/BHRTGetHelp)



## Focused Therapeutic Intervention



De-escalating,  
stabilizing, and  
managing crises  
and potential crises.

Don't Wait.  
Get Help.

**845-517-0400**  
[www.RocklandHelp.org](http://www.RocklandHelp.org)

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## What is the Behavioral Health response Team (BHRT)?

The Behavioral Health Response Team (BHRT) provides mobile behavioral health services and crisis intervention 24/7, 365 days a year to individuals, families and agencies in Rockland County. The Team can come to you if a mental health situation needs immediate intervention.

BHRT has an experienced team of mental Health professionals capable of responding immediately to requests for assistance or intervention with any behavioral health issue. The issues can range from serious emotional crisis to seeking guidance for behavioral health support. Our Team will conduct a basic needs assessment, which is an essential part of the outreach process. We provide referrals to mental health providers and agencies to ensure that individuals and families receive the on-going care they need.

However, if immediate additional support is needed the BHRT team members will arrange transportation to the most appropriate facility.

BHRT works collaboratively with all Rockland hospitals, mental health agencies, and first response agencies to ensure the most appropriate care.

### Our Free Services:

- Supportive Telephone Counseling 24/7
- Meet you where you live or work
- Help you develop strategies for reducing recurring crises
- Support you in addressing drug/alcohol use or addiction
- Help you cope with past traumatic experiences
- Helping you speak with a doctor if necessary
- Help you find a supportive peer group
- Connect you to additional local mental health agencies and support programs



## Who can request assistance from the Behavioral Health Response Team?

The Behavioral Health Response Team (BHRT) serves any person in Rockland County who is experiencing, or is at risk of a psychological or emotional crisis and requires behavioral health intervention.

Anyone can contact the Team at any time.

## What services does BHRT provide?

The BHRT staff provides a range of services including assessment, crisis intervention, supportive counseling, information and referrals, linkage with appropriate community based mental health services for ongoing treatment, and follow-up. Our support is confidential, non-judgmental and respectful.

## Will you come to me?

Yes! The Behavioral Health Response Team (BHRT) is prepared to respond to wherever you are located in Rockland County. We value your privacy and are fully prepared to protect all interactions which are strictly confidential. Call the Behavioral Health Response Team any time of the day or night for any mental health related issues.

## Is there a charge for the BHRT services?

No, there is never a charge for the Team's services. The program is free of charge through a grant from the NYS Office of Mental Health through Rockland County.

**845-517-0400**

[www.RocklandHelp.org](http://www.RocklandHelp.org)

## **APPENDIX A**

No. 203

### **EXECUTIVE ORDER**

#### **NEW YORK STATE POLICE REFORM AND REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE**

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the State of New York obliges the Governor to take care that the laws of New York are faithfully executed; and

**WHEREAS**, I have solemnly sworn, pursuant to Article 13, Section 1 of the Constitution, to support the Constitution and faithfully discharge the duties of the Office of Governor; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning on May 25, 2020, following the police-involved death of George Floyd in Minnesota, protests have taken place daily throughout the nation and in communities across New York State in response to police-involved deaths and racially-biased law enforcement to demand change, action, and accountability; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a long and painful history in New York State of discrimination and mistreatment of black and African-American citizens dating back to the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in America; and

**WHEREAS**, this recent history includes a number of incidents involving the police that have resulted in the deaths of unarmed civilians, predominantly black and African-American men, that have undermined the public's confidence and trust in our system of law enforcement and criminal justice, and such condition is ongoing and urgently needs to be rectified; and

**WHEREAS**, these deaths in New York State include those of Anthony Baez, Amadou Diallo, Ousmane Zango, Sean Bell, Ramarley Graham, Patrick Dorismond, Akai Gurley, and Eric Garner, amongst others, and, in other states, include Oscar Grant,



Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Tamir Rice, Laquan McDonald, Walter Scott, Freddie Gray, Philando Castile, Antwon Rose Jr., Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, amongst others,

**WHEREAS**, these needless deaths have led me to sign into law the Say Their Name Agenda which reforms aspects of policing in New York State; and

**WHEREAS**, government has a responsibility to ensure that all of its citizens are treated equally, fairly, and justly before the law; and

**WHEREAS**, recent outpouring of protests and demonstrations which have been manifested in every area of the state have illustrated the depth and breadth of the concern; and

**WHEREAS**, black lives matter; and

**WHEREAS**, the foregoing compels me to conclude that urgent and immediate action is needed to eliminate racial inequities in policing, to modify and modernize policing strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, and to develop practices to better address the particular needs of communities of color to promote public safety, improve community engagement, and foster trust; and

**WHEREAS**, the Division of the Budget is empowered to determine the appropriate use of funds in furtherance of the state laws and New York State Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, in coordination with the resources of the Division of Criminal Justice Services, the Division of the Budget can increase the effectiveness of the criminal justice system by ensuring that the local police agencies within the state have been actively engaged with stakeholders in the local community and have locally-approved plans for the strategies, policies and procedures of local police agencies; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State of

New York, in particular Article IV, section one, I do hereby order and direct as follows:

The director of the Division of the Budget, in consultation with the Division of Criminal Justice Services, shall promulgate guidance to be sent to all local governments directing that:

Each local government entity which has a police agency operating with police officers as defined under 1.20 of the criminal procedure law must perform a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, and develop a plan to improve such deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, for the purposes of addressing the particular needs of the communities served by such police agency and promote community engagement to foster trust, fairness, and legitimacy, and to address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color.

Each chief executive of such local government shall convene the head of the local police agency, and stakeholders in the community to develop such plan, which shall consider evidence-based policing strategies, including but not limited to, use of force policies, procedural justice; any studies addressing systemic racial bias or racial justice in policing; implicit bias awareness training; de-escalation training and practices; law enforcement assisted diversion programs; restorative justice practices; community-based outreach and conflict resolution; problem-oriented policing; hot spots policing; focused deterrence; crime prevention through environmental design; violence prevention and reduction interventions; model policies and guidelines promulgated by the New York State Municipal Police Training Council; and standards promulgated by the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. (B)

The political subdivision, in coordination with its police agency, must consult with stakeholders, including but not limited to membership and leadership of the local police force; members of the community, with emphasis in areas with high numbers of police and community interactions; interested non-profit and faith-based community groups; the local office of the district attorney; the local public defender; and local elected

officials, and create a plan to adopt and implement the recommendations resulting from its review and consultation, including any modifications, modernizations, and innovations to its policing deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, tailored to the specific needs of the community and general promotion of improved police agency and community relationships based on trust, fairness, accountability, and transparency, and which seek to reduce any racial disparities in policing.

Such plan shall be offered for public comment to all citizens in the locality, and after consideration of such comments, shall be presented to the local legislative body in such political subdivision, which shall ratify or adopt such plan by local law or resolution, as appropriate, no later than April 1, 2021; and

Such local government shall transmit a certification to the Director of the Division of the Budget to affirm that such process has been complied with and such local law or resolution has been adopted; and

The Director of the Division of the Budget shall be authorized to condition receipt of future appropriated state or federal funds upon filing of such certification for which such local government would otherwise be eligible; and

The Director is authorized to seek the support and assistance of any state agency in order to effectuate these purposes.

G I V E N under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State in the City of Albany this twelfth day of June in the year two thousand twenty.

BY THE GOVERNOR

Secretary to the Governor