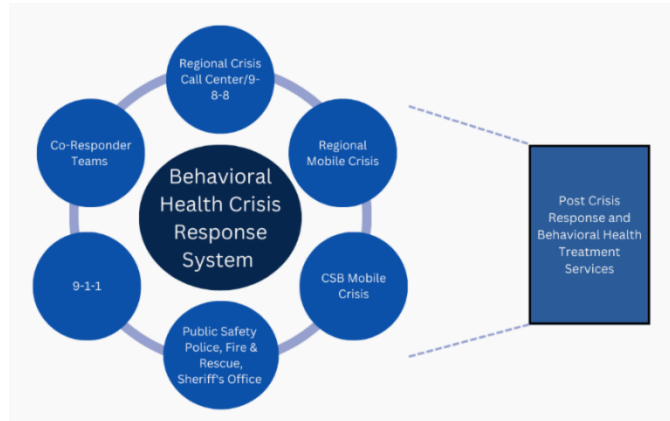


Well-Being Matters

By Supervisor Dan Storck

COVID's impact on our families and communities has reminded us all of the importance of our health and well-being and Fairfax County's role in protecting it. Nationally and locally this has been especially true in our responsiveness to behavioral health services and support. My background in running non-profits and providing health care services, as well as life experiences, have helped me to be particularly attuned to our residents needs and the health challenges many experience.



The County has an interdisciplinary, interagency and holistic approach that varies for each individual. With our Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD), Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department (FCFRD), Fairfax County Sheriff's Office (FCSO), Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC) and other community partners we have been creating a system of care that is improving the tailoring of services to individual needs. These efforts are far reaching, and some examples include:

- Partnering a CSB Crisis Intervention Specialist with a FCPD officer to respond to those in crises (**Co-Responder Program**).
- Embedding a CSB **Behavioral Health Liaison** within DPSC to assist in identifying callers who may benefit from a behavioral health response.
- Providing a mobile crisis response to those experiencing a crisis.
- Partnering with the Sheriff's Office to provide care to those who are incarcerated with behavioral health needs.

A new Telehealth Pilot program is also coming, in which FCPD and CSB are equipping some patrol officers with tablets that connect them with a CSB behavioral health specialist while responding to an incident. Enhancements such as these add to the impact and reach of services while minimizing staffing and costs.

These efforts go beyond caring for those in need by also having a positive impact on public safety. Co-responder teams help free up patrol officers to focus on criminal activity in the County. Our County has been making great strides in better supporting those with behavioral and mental health needs, while more aggressively and effectively catching those committing crime in our neighborhoods. As always, we must continue to rethink and innovate how we help all in our community reach their full potential.

If you or someone you know need help call 1-866-903-3787 or the CSB at 703-383-8500. More information about supportive services can also be found at Healthy Minds Fairfax - <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax/finding-supportive-services>.