



Community Outreach Response & Engagement Teams CORE



Lead By: Mendocino County Sheriff's Office – Matt Kendall



Community Outreach Response & Engagement - CORE

- **Mission:** To provide street-based compassionate, person-centered outreach to homeless individuals engaging in criminal behavior in Mendocino County through a collaborative partnership between public safety, criminal justice partners, behavioral health, social services, and community partners.
- **Vision:** Through a united approach that integrates public safety, health, and social care, we aim to reduce homelessness, support recovery, and strengthen community well-being.
- **Philosophy:** We recognize that, in most cases, success is only possible when individuals themselves choose to engage in the supportive services available to them. We recognize and celebrate that government agencies and numerous community partners have, in the past few years, engaged in collaborative successful work together that is achieving results. Our goal is support and amplify that collective work.

Current CORE Partners

► Sheriff

- **Primary Role:** Safety, engagement, and support in high-risk or crisis situations.
- **Key Contributions:**
 - **Safety & De-escalation:** Ensure the safety of outreach teams and individuals in potentially volatile or high-risk situations.
 - **Legal Navigation:** Assist with legal matters such as warrant checks
 - **Community Trust:** Help build rapport with individuals who may be more receptive to uniformed officers due to long-term community presence.

► Social Services

- **Primary Role:** Address basic needs, coordinate benefit access, and facilitate collaboration.
- **Key Contributions:**
 - **Benefits Navigation:** Help individuals apply for benefits like CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and General Assistance.
 - **CalAIM Connection:** Ensure that willing individuals are connected to relevant CalAIM Community Supports and Enhanced Care Management services.
 - **Facilitate case conferencing:** Host monthly Homeless Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings.
 - **Coordinate connection** to existing collaborative projects.

► Behavioral Health

- **Primary Role:** Mental health and substance use outreach, assessment, intervention, and treatment.
- **Key Contributions:**
 - **Resource Navigation:** Connect individuals to behavioral health, substance use treatment, and support services.
 - **Housing Assistance:** Help individual access transitional housing or permanent supportive housing.
 - **Case Management:** Develop personalized care plans, track progress, and provide long-term support.
 - **Outreach Coordination:** Identify high-needs individuals and ensure follow-up across agencies and systems.



Existing County Projects

- **Dual Response Mobile Crisis:** Dual Response Mobile Crisis is a behavioral health emergency response program for individuals in need of immediate intervention and stabilization for a behavioral health crisis.
- **Heads Up:** The goal of the Heads Up project is to provide early identification and diversion of individuals in need of behavioral health and social services support to avoid unnecessary and unproductive use of criminal justice resources.
- **Mobile Outreach and Prevention Services (MOPS):** a non emergency pre-crisis outreach program that responds to individuals experiencing overwhelm of behavioral health symptoms who need support connecting to service providers
- **Jail-based Collaboratives:**
 - Mendocino County Jail's Re-Entry Collaborative
 - "Monday Morning" Jail Discharge Collaborative
 - Jail Medi-Cal Pre-Release Project
- **Specialty Courts**
 - Adult Drug Court
 - Family Dependency Drug Court
 - Behavioral Health Court
- **Adult Services, Child Welfare Services, Probation, and other relevant County Departments participate in both informal and formal collaborative Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) and Child and Family Teams (CFT)**



Existing community-based projects that support CORE's mission:

- Adventist Health Street Medicine
- Fort Bragg Care Response Unit
- Mendocino Community Health Clinic's Connect to Care Program
- Enhanced Care Management providers working with the justice-involved population
- Community-based substance use treatment providers
- GEO Re-entry Services
- And more...



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► **Compassionate Outreach**

- Proactive engagement with individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Regular outreach to encampments, rural areas, and public spaces
- Builds trusting relationships to encourage service engagement

► **Crisis Response and De-escalation**

- On-scene support for behavioral health or substance use crises
- Trauma-informed, nonviolent de-escalation to avoid unnecessary arrests or hospitalizations

► **Integrated Access to Services**

- Coordinate connection to:
 - Mental health care
 - Substance use treatment
 - Medical care
 - Existing community resources and services



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➤ **Public Safety and Community Stabilization**

- Reduces 911 calls and emergency room visits
- Helps resolve community concerns related to public health, safety, and encampments in a compassionate, service-driven way

➤ **Collaborative, Multidisciplinary Team Model**

- Leverages the strengths of:
 - Mendocino County Sheriff's Office
 - Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
 - Social Services Department

And additional departments/agencies when/if they elect to join...



Progress thus far...

► **Pilot Test of Initial 10 Individuals**

- MCSO identified ten individuals within the intended target population of CORE
- DSS and BHRS staff researched and established current engagement status for pilot group
- Several of the individuals have since been elevated to a higher or different level of care
- Working on refining the criteria for identifying individuals within the most effective timeframe for successful intervention
- Developed universal release of information document, as well as draft outcome measures for tracking progress
- Learning a lot!

► **Engagement with Existing Collaborative Projects**

- Connections are developing and ongoing with jail-based collaboratives, CalAIM ECM providers, other criminal justice partners

► **Funding gaps identified**

- Project partners have identified existing funding sources that support CORE's mission, and have also identified where gaps exist



Next steps...

- **Submit grant proposal for Prop 47 funding (BHRS update this section)**
 - Grant proposal will focus on 24 hours per month of staff time for MCSO Deputy assigned to project; additional staff support from BHRS and DSS; and provide funding for community-based sober living beds for individuals exiting SUD treatment
 - Grant was due June 23, 2025. Awards will be released by September 2025.
- **Develop and finalize MOU for internal CORE partners**
 - Goal is to further define target population, structure of project, and roles and responsibilities, and encourage additional partners to sign the MOU and join the CORE collaborative when they feel comfortable doing so (e.g. state agencies, court systems, police departments, etc.)
- **Practice with a second set of 10 pilot individuals**