



NEWS RELEASE

October 29, 2024

Ferndale, Hazel Park, Madison Heights, and Royal Oak Police Departments Launch Co-Response Community Outreach (CoRe) Program in Partnership with Oakland Community Health Network

Oakland County, MI – The Ferndale, Hazel Park, Madison Heights, and Royal Oak Police Departments are excited to announce a new partnership with Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN). These agencies have collaborated to implement the Co-Response Community Outreach program (CoRe). The CoRe program is designed to address mental health and substance use disorders within the community using a multi-disciplinary response. This collaboration aims to enhance public safety by integrating mental health clinicians directly into police responses.

The official launch of the CoRe program will be announced at a press conference on October 29, 2024, at 10:30 AM at the Royal Oak Police Department. Representatives from Ferndale, Hazel Park, Madison Heights, and Royal Oak Police Departments, along with OCHN will be in attendance.

The program will embed two mental health professionals within the four participating departments to provide immediate support and resources to individuals experiencing mental health or substance use crises. The CoRe program seeks to complement traditional law enforcement by offering mental health interventions at critical moments, before, during, and after a crisis. Law enforcement officers will collaborate with trained mental health clinicians to ensure that community members in crisis receive the necessary care and support.

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Each participating department will form a dedicated CoRe Team consisting of a CoRe Team Coordinator, CoRe Liaison Officers, and a Mental Health Clinician. These clinicians will provide essential services such as case consultations, referrals to community resources, and coordination of ongoing care. The co-responders will also play a vital role in training and assisting CoRe Teams, ensuring a seamless connection between law enforcement and mental health services.

The two mental health clinicians hired for the CoRe program have received comprehensive training tailored to the specific needs of law enforcement. This training included familiarizing themselves with department policies, participating in officer ride-alongs, shadowing experienced co-responders, and receiving safety training alongside law enforcement personnel.

This initiative underscores the commitment of these police departments to serve their communities with compassion and professionalism. Through this innovative partnership, the CoRe program will enhance the ability to respond effectively to mental health challenges, providing critical support to those in need.

For more information about the CoRe program and the upcoming press conference, please contact:

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