



## New Brief: Responding to Individuals in Behavioral Health Crisis via Co-Responder Models

Cities and counties across the country are increasingly adopting promising co-responder models to improve engagements with people experiencing behavioral health crises. Co-responder models generally involve law enforcement and clinicians working together in response to calls for service involving a person experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The model provides law enforcement with appropriate alternatives to arrest as well as additional options to respond to non-criminal calls. Communities and local leaders can use co-responder models to develop a continuum of crisis care that results in the reduction of harm, arrests, and use of jails and emergency departments and that simultaneously promotes the



JANUARY 2020

### RESPONDING TO INDIVIDUALS IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS VIA CO-RESPONDER MODELS:

The Roles of Cities, Counties, Law Enforcement, and Providers

By: Ashley Krider & Regina Huertter, Policy Research, Inc.  
Kirby Gaherty & Andrew Moore, National League of Cities

Cities and counties across the country are increasingly adopting the promising co-responder model to improve how they engage with people experiencing behavioral health crises. Co-responder models vary in practice, but generally involve law enforcement and clinicians working together in response to calls for service involving a person experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The model provides law enforcement with appropriate alternatives to arrest as well as additional options to respond to non-criminal calls. Communities and local leaders can use the model to develop a crisis continuum of care that results in the reduction of harm, arrests, and use of jails and emergency departments and that promotes the development of and access to quality mental and substance use disorder treatment and services.

This brief, the first joint product in a series from Policy Research, Inc. (PRI) and the National League of Cities (NLC), details the various co-responder models available to city and county leaders. It reflects the growing interest and experimentation with co-response among jurisdictions that are part of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC). In addition, the brief builds upon case studies in NLC's recent series, *Addressing Mental Health, Substance Use, and Homelessness*, which explores emergency response and crisis stabilization strategies for cities.

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Policy Research, Inc. (PRI) is pleased to release a new brief, *Responding to Individuals in Behavioral Health Crisis via Co-Responder Models: The Roles of Cities, Counties, Law Enforcement, and Providers*. This brief is the first joint product in a series from PRI and the National League of Cities (NLC). The publication details various co-responder models available to city and county leaders. It reflects the growing interest in and experimentation with co-response among jurisdictions that are part of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge. In addition, the brief builds upon case studies in NLC's recent series, *Addressing Mental Health, Substance Use, and Homelessness*.

This brief was created with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation as part of the Safety and Justice Challenge initiative. The brief was enhanced with contributions from the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Association of Counties.

Download the Co-Responder Model Brief

## New Podcast Series on Mentally Healthy Workplaces

PRA Well-Being is pleased to announce the release of a new well-being podcast series. Released today is the first episode in a four-part series from PRA and the Wellness Council of America (WELCOA) on mentally healthy workplaces. In *Social Determinants of Health Part 1: Can the Workplace Stand in the Gap?*, PRA's Dr. Crystal L. Brandow interviews WELCOA President Ryan Picarella on topics related to the roles organizations can occupy to support health and wellness for employees, particularly in light of what we know about research on social determinants of health. The first of two podcast episodes on this topic is now available on [iTunes](#), [Stitcher](#), and [SoundCloud](#)! A transcript of the episode is also available.



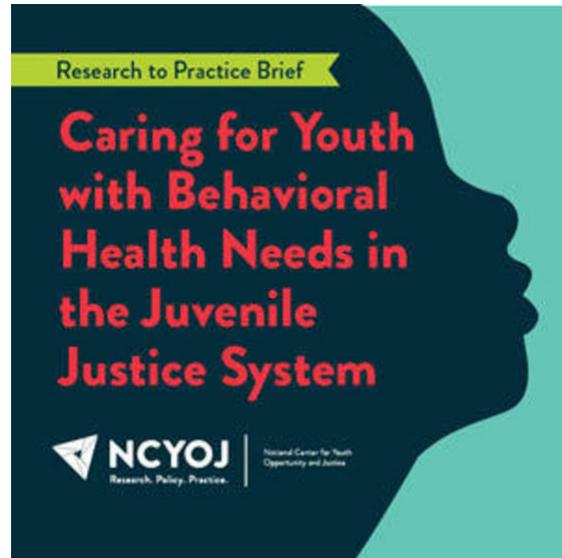
Social Determinants of Health | PART 1

To learn more about WELCOA, visit [www.welcoa.org](http://www.welcoa.org). For access to PRA's workplace wellness resources, visit [www.prainc.com](http://www.prainc.com).

Listen to the Podcast

## New NCYOJ Brief: Caring for Youth with Behavioral Health Needs in the Juvenile Justice System

The National Center for Youth Opportunity and Justice (NCYOJ) has published a new Research to Practice Brief, *Caring for Youth with Behavioral Health Needs in the Juvenile Justice System: Improving Knowledge and Skills of the Professionals Who Supervise Them*. Seventy percent of justice-involved youth have at least one diagnosable mental illness. With 800,000 people under the age of 18 arrested in 2017, a substantial number of youth with behavioral health issues are regularly brought into contact with juvenile justice professionals. These professionals often lack necessary training to best serve their roles and youths' needs when such conditions are present.



*Caring for Youth with Behavioral Health Needs in the Juvenile Justice System* offers analyses of this situation and of a training program designed to improve it, the Mental Health Training for Juvenile Justice (MHT-JJ). The curriculum is an 8-hour, interactive training that covers adolescent development, childhood trauma, mental and substance use disorders, effective interventions, practical strategies for working with youth and their families, and self-care approaches to mitigate the harmful effects of secondary traumatic stress in staff.

[Download the Research to Practice Brief](#)

In addition to the full brief, NCYOJ has also released a short-form version of the document, highlighting key findings in a single page.

[Download the One-Page Summary](#)

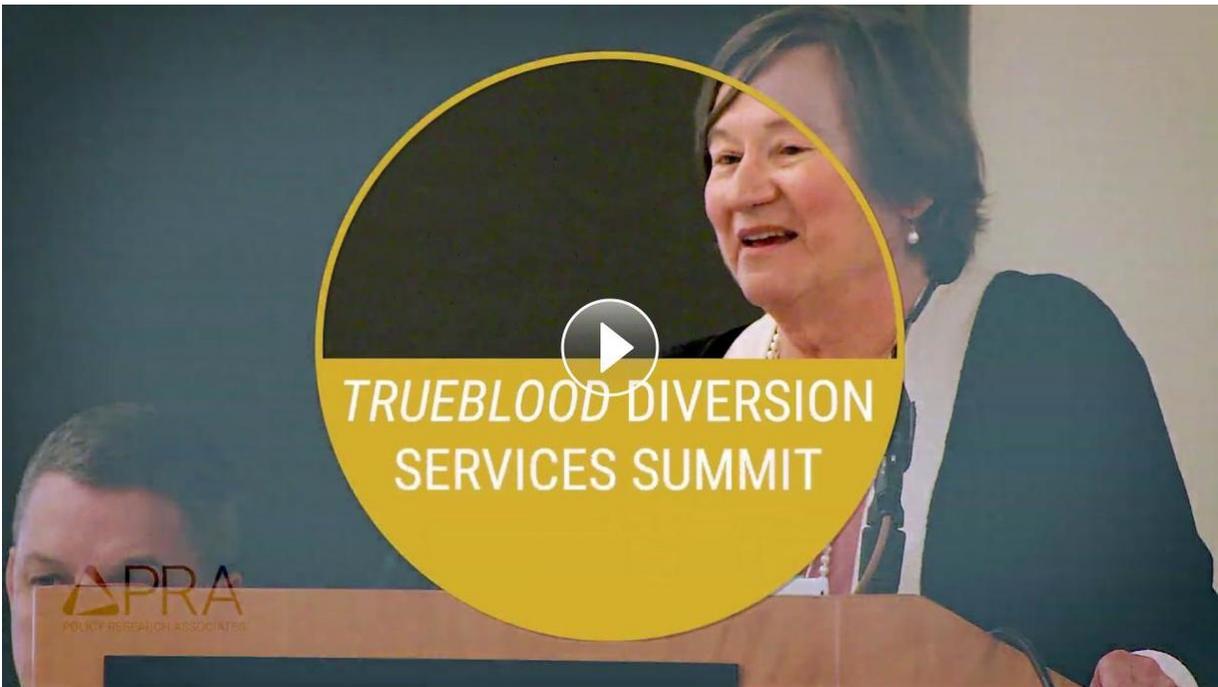
## New Competence to Stand Trial Video Resources

In September 2019, stakeholders and service providers from around Washington State came together at a summit to discuss the diversion of people with mental illness from the criminal legal system. These diversion service providers are funded through A.B. v. D.S.H.S. (*Trueblood*). This class-action lawsuit enforces a person's constitutional right to timely competence evaluation and restoration services in a criminal case.

As part of the settlement, PRA was engaged to assist the *Trueblood* Court Monitor's Office, the *Trueblood* Workgroup, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, and other key stakeholders. Among other efforts in this engagement, PRA facilitated September's *Trueblood* Diversion Services Summit. To share the lessons learned, promising practices, and recommendations stemming from this event, PRA is pleased to release a suite of seven videos.

The seven videos cover the following topics:

- *Trueblood* Diversion Services Summit: 2019 Recap—An overview of the subject-matter experts, presenters, themes, and programs highlighted at the *Trueblood* Diversion Services Summit.
- Implementing Community-Based Restoration—A plenary presentation by Debra Pinals, Ph.D., that examines the competence to stand trial/competence restoration system and possible methods for diversion to community-based services across all intercepts of the Sequential Intercept Model.
- Peers & Class Members Panel Discussion—During this panel discussion, *Trueblood* peers and class members provided their perspective on the competence restoration system, their personal experiences with the criminal justice and treatment systems, and recommendations to the assembled diversion programs.
- Peer Interviews (shortened and long-form versions)—These two videos, one shortened, one full-length, provide an inside look at the valuable role peer specialists play in assisting individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.
- Class Member Interviews (shortened and long-form versions)—In these two videos, one shortened, one full-length, *Trueblood* class members share the importance of collaboration between the criminal justice system and the community to assist individuals with behavioral health needs effectively.



*Watch the Trueblood Diversion Services Summit Videos*

View the Audio Description Versions of the Videos

## PRA in the News

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- [The Definition of Insanity](#) [video]
- [Homeless in San Diego—Housing: SOAR to Success](#) [podcast]
- [Flagler Prepares for Annual Survey of Homeless Needs, Conditions](#)

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