

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE SAN BENITO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
AND THE CITY OF HOLLISTER POLICE DEPARTMENT
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS
RESPONSE TEAM**

WHEREAS, People experiencing Mental Health Crisis is an immense problem not only in our community but across the state and across the nation; and

WHEREAS, People experiencing stress from work, financial problems, family issues, deaths in the family and many other difficult life circumstances that can result in crisis levels of mental health symptoms; and

WHEREAS, People can have situations of mental stress evolve into a crisis where their normal levels of mental functioning can be affected; and

WHEREAS, People experiencing a mental health crisis may escalate to levels where psychological and emotional functions evolve into situations that could present as a danger to themselves, to others and grave disability to a point that could require police interaction and also services from the County Behavioral Health Department to avoid an involuntary 5150 hold and possible detention and treatment at a psychiatric inpatient hospital; and

WHEREAS, Behavioral Health Departments throughout the state are struggling to deal with serious, acute mental illness, sometimes at a level requiring crisis intervention, stabilization, hospitalization, or resulting in incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Individuals from our community who may have mental illness and experience cycling through hospitals and even jail is not the most beneficial and preferred resolution; and

WHEREAS, San Benito County Behavioral Health and the Hollister Police Department are in agreement to create a Crisis Response Team to intervene and attempt to avoid involuntary 5150 detentions for persons experiencing mental health crisis in our community; and

WHEREAS, The Crisis Response Team shall consist of, one Case Manager, a Mental Health Clinician to assist as needed and a Hollister Police Department (HPD) officer designated as a Community Liaison officer; and

WHEREAS, The Crisis Response Team will be primarily stationed in Hollister and available to respond to all areas of San Benito County; and

WHEREAS, The Crisis Response Team shall focus on meeting program goals and outcomes, working together in partnership efficiently and effectively and doing what is in the best clinical interest of each individual served in our community; and

WHEREAS, San Benito County Behavioral Health shall fund the HPD Community Liaison Officer position assigned to the Crisis Response Team designated to work with the team and respond to potential 5150 related situations when on duty; and

WHEREAS, San Benito County Behavioral Health will fund the cost of the officer's salary up to \$160,000 a year; and

WHEREAS, This MOU will be in affect beginning approximately August 18, 2020 and be in effect for 3 years in total unless terminated through mutual agreement between the City of Hollister and the County of San Benito.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of San Benito and it's Behavioral Health Department and the City Council of the City of Hollister and its Police Department enter into this MOU to develop a Crisis Response Team.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized officers in the County of San Benito, California.

This Agreement is entered into this day of August 18, 2020 by and between the undersigned parties.

Jaime De La Cruz, Chair
County of San Benito

Interim City Manager
City of Hollister

Dated:

Dated:

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM
San Benito County Counsel

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
of SAN BENITO COUNTY, California

By: 

By: _____

Dated: 7-27-2020

Dated: _____