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Law enforcement is being challenged by the growing number of calls for service involving people with mental health needs. It is imperative we recognize when mental illness may be a contributing factor during a call for service so we can respond in a manner as to de-escalate crisis situations.

The Dane County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the Journey Mental Health Center. A Crisis Worker, from Journey, is embedded part time with the Sheriff's Office Field Services Division. The goal of utilizing an embedded mental health worker is to create a better response to mental health related calls and to engage in preventative follow-up work that may reduce repeated law enforcement contacts with the same individuals.

Our mental health crisis worker is available to co-respond to calls for service, conduct consultations via phone, and assist with Emergency Detentions. Additionally, the mental health crisis worker can accompany deputies on proactive home visits to connect mental health consumers to services.

Together, we can problem solve a wide array of mental health issues and work toward curbing incarceration and creating better short-term outcomes for community members.

Happy Spring and Stay Safe!

Deputy Leslie A. Fox  
Dane County Sheriff's Office  
Southeast Precinct