



Ready to Protect
Proud to Serve

NEWS RELEASE

Roberto A. Villaseñor
Chief of Police

Contact: Maria Hawke
Sergeant / Public Information Office
520-791-4852

On-call PIO: tucsonpdpio@gmail.com
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/police>

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TUCSON POLICE DEPARTMENT COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

The Tucson Police Department (TPD) has begun collaborating with the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA) and the Crisis Response Network of Southern Arizona (CRN/SA) to assist those in the community experiencing a non-emergency mental health crisis. CRN/SA staffs the CPSA's Community-Wide Crisis Line, which operates 24-hours a day, 365 days a year in order to offer immediate and confidential help as well as provide services at CPSA's Crisis Response Center.

Currently, when Tucson Police Communications personnel receive a mental health related call-for-service via 911, an officer is dispatched to the location in order to refer the individual to the appropriate health facility. In 2012, TPD answered about 3,200 such calls. As a result of the collaboration between TPD, CPSA and CRN/SA, Tucson Police Communications personnel will begin training in May of 2013, learning skills to assist with determining whether a police response is necessary. If the caller is not in immediate danger, the Public Safety Operator will put the caller directly in touch with CRN/SA's trained crisis staff. By transferring these non-emergency calls to the crisis line, the Police Department furthers our efforts to provide such citizens with the best possible service by putting them in direct contact with healthcare professionals at CRN/SA who can help resolve their crisis and connect them with the most appropriate resources. Citizens also may call the crisis line directly at 622-6000.

Similar behavioral healthcare and law enforcement cooperation has been very successful in Phoenix, Arizona and Portland, Oregon for several years. Once the program is fully implemented, the Department hopes that a third of these calls can realistically be transferred, lessening the time it takes for our citizens to be connected with those entities best able to provide them with the services they need. The Tucson Police Department is very appreciative of the increasing relationships with both CRN/SA and CPSA and know that the citizens will benefit from such close coordination of efforts. The new protocols are expected to become effective by July 1, 2013.

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For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.