

HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY LIAISON

The Howard County Police Department has a state-licensed Mental Health Community Liaison on staff. This individual is a professional counselor working within the Police Department. HCPD also has multiple sworn officers who further enhance police response to mental health calls. These positions focus on improving mental health training of police officers, coordinating resources available to persons and families of persons with mental health issues, and examining calls for service to the police department involving persons with mental illness. They operate with the knowledge that ***better training means better outcomes and less danger to everyone involved.*** ***Getting people with mental illness to the right resources and treatment will decrease the need for emergency response.***

**Please feel free to contact HCPD's
Mental Health Community Liaisons:**

410-313-2207

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION:

Why do police have to use handcuffs in a mental health crisis? Doesn't that mean the person has been arrested?

It is important to know, and often misunderstood, that in cases of emergency petition, your loved one is NOT being arrested.

People taken to HCGH by officers for an emergency petition are handcuffed, by policy, for the safety of both the officer and the person being treated.

ADVOCACY, EDUCATION & SUPPORT

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-8255 | suicidepreventionlifeline.org

The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.

Howard County Health Department- Bureau of Behavioral Health (BBH)

(410) 313-6202 | hchealth.org

The BBH raises awareness of behavioral health needs in our community, provides education and ensures equal access to programs and resources. Call to discuss resources and referrals.

Howard County Network of Care

howard.md.networkofcare.org/mh

Regardless of where you begin the Network of Care helps you find what you need; it helps ensure that there is "No Wrong Door" for those who need behavioral health services.

NAMI Howard County

(410) 772-9300 | namihowardcounty.org

NAMI Howard County provides free services, resources and support for families and individuals affected by mental illness.

On Our Own of Howard County

(410) 772-7905 | onourownmd.org

On Our Own offers education and advocacy for persons with mental illness along with those suffering with substance addiction. The Wellness and Recovery Center provides a place for individuals to meet with peers for support. There is no cost to participate.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Aging: marylandaccesspoint.info

Veteran's services: veterans.health.maryland.gov

Substance use: hcdrugfree.org

Maryland Coalition for Families: mdcoalition.org

HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

INFORMATION & RESOURCES

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS:

What happened?

What's next?



Case Number:

Officer:



Community Outreach Division
Mental Health Section

10741 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia

(410) 313-2207 | HCPD.org

You are not alone. We are here to help.

Mental illness affects one in four people.

We understand how difficult this can be at times. We want to offer you the assistance and support you need.

There are resources to help you.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

In an emergency circumstance, call 9-1-1. Officers will respond to situations where someone with a mental health issue has gone missing, lost control, or is a danger to themselves or someone else.

The Howard County Police Department trains all officers on mental health awareness, and most have received additional specialized training, known as Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training.

Officers are taught techniques to help calm a volatile situation, work directly with loved ones, and provide compassionate responses that prioritize treatment over incarceration, when appropriate. A CIT-trained officer can always be requested, if one is not already on the scene of an incident.

In addition to calling police during a crisis, the following resources are available for immediate assistance:

Howard County Mobile Crisis Team

(410) 531-6677 | HCPD.org

The Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) consists of trained mental health professionals who can spend time with a person in crisis and complete a mental health assessment to determine what next step should be taken. MCT can be requested to assist police officers on location by either you or police officers. They operate 7 days/week, from 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center

6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044
(410) 531-6677 | grassrootscrisis.org

The Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center offers a hotline that provides 24/7 telephone counseling and free walk-in counseling.

Howard County General Hospital

5755 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044
(410) 740-7890 | HCGH.org

The HCGH psychiatric unit completes emergency evaluations on people in crisis, on both a voluntary and involuntary basis. This is where your loved one would be taken by police during an emergency petition

DISTRICT COURT SERVICES

Filing an Emergency Petition

Sometimes, an individual may be experiencing a psychiatric crisis and is unwilling to seek help for themselves. If the situation requires immediate intervention, call 911. Any interested person (friend, relative, neighbor, or health professional) may file a petition for emergency evaluation review by a judge.

To file a petition for emergency evaluation, go to the nearest district court during court hours and ask for the "petition for emergency evaluation" form.

Extreme Risk Protective Orders

An Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO) is a court-issued civil order temporarily requiring a person to surrender any firearms or ammunition to law enforcement. An ERPO may be filed against a person who poses an immediate and present danger of causing personal injury to self or others by having firearms.

A petition may be filed by a spouse, a cohabitant, a relative or a person with a child in common, a current dating or intimate partner or a current or former legal guardian.

For more information please visit:
mdcourts.gov/district/ERPO