

Trillium looking to embed mental healthcare provider with police, social service agencies

by Annette Weston | Monday, September 14th 2020



GREENVILLE, Pitt County — Trillium Health Resources is working to recruit professionals in the behavioral health field and those that work with intellectual or developmental disabilities to respond alongside law enforcement agencies to calls about people in distress.

Officials said that could include those with suspected mental health issues, those battling addiction or who have suffered a traumatic brain injury.

Trillium is hoping the pilot programs will allow for more rapid access to treatment and improvements in providing services for those in need of them.

"Too many children end up in foster care because they or their parents need treatment or support for a behavioral health condition or developmental disability. We know that many people end up in jail when treatment and reliable access to high-quality services was what they needed," stated Cindy Ehlers, Executive Vice President with Trillium. "Diversion efforts such as our co-responder pilot will help these individuals get the help they need more quickly and reduce strain on law enforcement agencies, DSS, and juvenile justice districts while also helping to strengthen the communication between these agencies with the providers of treatment and support services within their communities."



The deadline for proposal submissions is December 15. The eligible counties include Columbus, Brunswick, Nash, New Hanover, Onslow, Craven, Pitt, Pender, Carteret, Pasquotank and Dare counties.

Trillium will then select and contract for this service with a BH/IDD provider which will embed a professional within these agencies to better link children and adults with identified diagnoses to appropriate services.

They said the co-responders would be sent out with social services staff or law enforcement officers on crisis calls and offer rapid access, support, and stabilization, and will provide referral information for the individual including follow-up care.

Interested providers can find the proposal request and requirements on the Trillium website <u>HERE</u>.