

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

City of Salinas, California

DATE: January 10, 2017

FROM: Adele Fresé, Chief of Police

BY: Henry Gomez, Commander

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT WITH MONTEREY
COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM**

RECOMMENDATION:

Police Department staff recommends the City Council approve the attached resolution approving the amendment to the inter-agency agreement with Monterey County Behavioral Health Crisis Negotiation Team (BHCNT) and to authorize the Police Chief to sign and approve the amendment to the inter-agency agreement.

DISCUSSION:

On December 18, 2012, the Salinas City Council approved Resolution No. 20314, authorizing the Police Chief to enter into the Monterey County Behavioral Health Crisis Negotiation Inter-Agency Agreement. The BHCNT was created to provide support services to county peace officers when faced with a crisis situation. The team's assistance to officers dealing with mentally ill persons in crisis to consult with and offer guidance and expert opinions has been invaluable. Personnel from the Behavioral Health Unit have regularly trained with our Crisis Negotiation and SWAT teams and have deployed alongside them in countless crisis situations. Their knowledge of the manifestations of being in crisis for those suffering from mental illness has contributed to the successful outcome of numerous field situations. The original agreement was subsequently passed and adopted by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors on May 14, 2013.

As part of the BHCNT, the newly created Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) Program responds to 911 requests involving an individual experiencing a psychiatric or emotional crisis. It operates with the goal of avoiding the use of involuntary psychiatric hospitalization, whenever appropriate, by providing alternative treatment resources, which may include consultation, crisis intervention, and referral to a brief treatment and/or diversion to other voluntary psychiatric services available. Mental health professionals are in designated jurisdictions in Monterey County, with one of them assigned to Salinas. Salinas Police officers in the field have already successfully utilized the MCT services. They provide assistance to persons experiencing a crisis in a timely manner.

The amended agreement between the BHCNT and City of Salinas (including other law enforcement partners) establishes the expectations of each agency. They are included in the attached AMENDMENT

NO. 1 TO AGREEMENT A-13043 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM INTER-AGENCY AGREEMENT. In addition, the partners in the original agreement wish to incorporate the City of Gonzales Police Department to be part of the agreement as one of the separate entities.

ISSUE:

Shall the City Council approve the amendment to the inter-agency agreement with Monterey County Behavioral Health Crisis Negotiation Team and authorize the Police Chief to sign the amended MOU on behalf of the City?

FISCAL IMPACT:

None. By consulting with and working in conjunction with mental health experts under this amended agreement, there may be reduced potential litigation liability based on the outcome of crisis situations.

TIME CONSIDERATIONS:

The Salinas Police Department has enjoyed a close and productive partnership with Behavioral Health personnel since before the original agreement was adopted. Signing this inter-agency agreement formalizes the relationship and assistance offered by the Mobile Crisis Team.

ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO COUNCIL:

1. The City Council may take no action. This will result in the City not signing the amended operational MOU with the County.
2. The City Council may approve the Resolution authorizing the Police Chief to sign the amended MOU and continue working in partnership with the BHCNT and Mobile Crisis Team

CITY COUNCIL GOALS:

Working in partnership with the BHCNT and Mobile Crisis Team allows the City to more quickly and successfully resolve situations involving mentally ill persons; thereby supporting the City Council goal of promoting Salinas as a City of Peace.

CONCLUSION:

The City of Salinas has been committed to using available resources and partnering with outside agencies to respond to and resolve crisis situations involving individuals suffering from mental illness or impairment. Continuing to work with Behavioral Health professionals and the added component of the Mobile Crisis Team will only enhance the City's ability to safely resolve crisis situations.

Attachments:
Resolution
Amendment

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (N.C.S.)

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE POLICE CHIEF TO ENTER INTO THE AMENDED
MONTEREY COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM INTER-
AGENCY AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, police officers routinely deal with people in crisis; and

WHEREAS, many of those individuals suffer from a mental illness or are emotionally disturbed;
and

WHEREAS, the Police Chief entered into the Monterey County Behavioral Health Crisis
Negotiation Team Inter-Agency Agreement on March 27, 2013, to make available on-call mental health
professionals to assist local law enforcement with such crisis situations; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey County Health Department has created the Mobile Crisis Team to
better and more quickly provide support services to law enforcement agencies participating in the inter-
agency agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF SALINAS the amended
Monterey County Behavioral Health Crisis Negotiation Team Inter-Agency Agreement is hereby
approved and that the Police Chief is authorized to enter into the amended agreement on behalf of the
City.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 10th of January, 2017 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Joe Gunter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia M. Barajas, City Clerk