

Mental Health Response Team



The co-responder program formally became the **Mental Health Response Team (MHRT)** in 2021. Two officers joined the team, bringing extensive experience in mental health and crisis intervention. A second clinician was added, allowing for service seven days a week. The team continues to grow, innovate, and collaborate with local partners to help community members in crisis and their families access care.

Lead by Example

MHRT has been recognized as a leader in the mental health co-response space. Clinician Booco, Officer Hill, and Chief Swoboda presented at the 2021 City Managers Leave to share our program with other cities. Personnel from another police department also visited FCPS to learn about our program and take away best practices as they develop theirs.

Local Partnerships

Officer Hill developed a relationship with the District Attorney's office so we can route people to the Diversion program if they incur a ticket or arrest secondary to an undermanaged mental illness and or substance use disorder. MHRT also built a relationship with Housing Catalyst by providing additional proactive patrols through Mason Place and Red Tail Ponds.

Tools & Resources

MHRT developed and improved resources for Patrol and FC911 to help create consistency and build internal skills. MHRT also became the agency liaison for AIIM/Wellness Court, and both MHRT officers joined the crisis negotiations team. The team gave 28 presentations in 2021, attended 15 community events, and facilitated 14 trainings, including a CIT certification course.

