



Specialized Assistance For Everyone (SAFE)

Initial Assessment of Community Needs

- In 2020 following requests from the Petaluma Community, especially our local youth groups, the City of Petaluma and the Police Department explored differential policing strategies including the evaluation of the potential for a mobile crisis intervention team.
- The City contracted with Crisis Consulting for that analysis and during their study and assessment of a representative sample of public safety calls for service they estimated that approximately 5% of total calls for service could be handled by such a program.





Program Goals

- Through the City of Petaluma's partnership with Petaluma People Services Center the goal of the SAFE team is to address crisis response, prevention and intervention for our most vulnerable community members experiencing crises related to mental health issues, substance abuse issues and homelessness.
- The team is made up of specially trained civilian first responders, who respond to and proactively address calls for service that have traditionally (and unnecessarily) burdened law enforcement, emergency medical services and health care providers.

Structure and Operations

SAFE began service in the field in July 2021 currently serving within the city limits of the Petaluma.

- Hours of operation:
- 12-hours 9am-9pm July – Sept, 2021
- 18-hours 7am-1am Sept – Oct 2021
- 24 hours 5am-5am Currently - Ongoing

For 24-hour staffing, each role (crisis worker and para-clinician), is staffed with 5 positions. For a total of 10 employees.

One program supervisor oversees the daily operations of the team and is available on-call as needed.

SAFE is dispatched through Petaluma PD's Communication Center or **707-781-1234**

SAFE is the only model currently operating on a 24/7 cycle in California.





SAFE- A Model That Scales

- SAFE has expanded to the serve the communities of Cotati, Rohnert Park, and San Rafael.
- SAFE is the first program to serve a University campus and serves Sonoma State University.
- SAFE is connected with SRJC and has responded to their campuses to provide assistance.
- LAPD recently interviewed Petaluma PD and PPSC staff about the SAFE Team as they are evaluating how to implement a mobile crisis team with similar personnel.



A photograph of two SAFE team members standing in an outdoor area with trees and a fence in the background. One person is wearing a blue shirt with 'S.A.F.E. TEAM' on the back and a large black backpack. The other person is also in a blue shirt. There are various items on the ground, including water jugs and a white bucket.

Data/Statistics

In total SAFE team has handled over **7,155** calls for service from July 2021- June 2023.

16% of Calls are being diverted to SAFE in place of Police Officers

The SAFE Team has completed over **1,000** transports since the inception of the program.

SAFE team service calls by type:

- First Aid/Medical assessments (3%)
- Counseling requests (7%)
- Police/EMS assists (8%)
- Public assists (55%)
- Death notifications (<1%)
- Suicidal subjects (5%)
- Welfare checks (21%)

Total Number of Emergency Room Diversions: **311**

Total Number of Jail Diversions: **150**

Total Number of Ambulance Diversions: **124**

Successful Outcomes

- Assisting community members to become medication compliant.
- Assisting community members to secure housing at local shelters.
- Alleviated public safety responses stemming from calls from community members experiencing mental health issues and dementia.
- Connected community members with psychiatric services and assisted in deescalating incidents.
- Preventing and diverting medical and mental health patients from regional Emergency Departments.
- SAFE successfully negotiated for 2 hours with a juvenile on the ledge of the C Street garage threatening to jump if they saw officers.



A background photograph showing three individuals in a park-like setting. On the left, a man in a teal t-shirt and black pants stands with his hands in his pockets. In the center, a woman in a teal hoodie and black pants stands looking towards the right. On the right, a police officer in a dark uniform and cap stands with his back to the camera, looking towards the other two. The ground is dry and grassy, with trees and a building in the background.

Pilot Program Grant Funding

☐ COPS Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) - \$250,000 over 2 years

- Funds used towards personnel costs
 - FY22- \$125,000
 - FY23- \$125,000

☐ Crisis Care Mobile Units (CCMU)-\$1,000,000 over 4 years

- Funds used towards personnel costs
 - FY22 \$125,000
 - FY23 \$125,000
- \$750,000 Infrastructure Costs
 - County-wide database to share data among the crisis teams.
 - Outfitting of SAFE van
 - Anticipated procurement and outfitting of all electric 3rd van

☐ Measure O Funding- \$998,000- over 2 years

- FY 23- \$498,000 Direct Services
- FY24- \$500,000 Direct Services

☐ HEAP Grant- \$45,000-1 year

- FY 22- Procurement of a second SAFE van



Program Costs

- First-Year Total Costs (Inc. Start-Up Costs)
\$1,100,000
- Year Two Anticipated Total Annual Cost
\$1,000,000
- Estimated On-going Annual Cost
\$1,000,000
- Hourly cost of SAFE is approximately
\$125/HR
- Potential Future Funding Sources:
 - Petaluma Health Care District
 - Local Health Care Providers (Providence Medical Group and Kaiser Permanente)
 - County of Sonoma Measure O funds
 - Federal and State grant opportunities



Financial Offsets/Benefits

- The City of Petaluma through the Sober Circle Program has demonstrated the benefit of connecting clients with appropriate services to divert them from unnecessary ED visits.
- SAFE is anticipated to reduce costs and increase resource availability. For example, an intoxicated subject on average spends no less than 3 hours in the hospital at an average cost of \$4,379.
- Based on the 311 ED Diversions the program has already provided a benefit and offset costs of over **\$1,350,000** to Petaluma Valley Hospital in just the first two years of the program.
- Through the Crisis Care Mobile Unit grant we are working with the County of Sonoma, Rohnert Park, Cotati, and Santa Rosa to collectively design and build a database to store, review, and analyze data related to mobile crisis teams, clients, and services utilized.
- City is continually seeking partner funding support from Providence, the Petaluma Healthcare District, Kaiser Permanente, and others.





Additional information regarding the SAFE Team can be found at;
cityofpetaluma.org/safe
petalumapeople.org/

The SAFE Team can be requested by calling **707-781-1234**