

**Monterey County Board of Supervisors  
Referral Submittal Form**

**Referral No. 2023.12  
Assignment Date: 05/23/23**

**SUBMITTAL - Completed by referring Board office and returned to CAO no later than noon on Thursday prior to Board meeting:**

Date: 5/17/2023	Submitted By: Supervisor Luis Alejo	District #: 1
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**Referral Title: Joint Model Crisis Response Pilot Program with the City of Salinas**

**Referral Purpose:** This referral requests that the County of Monterey collaborate with the City of Salinas on a potential pilot crisis response program

**Brief Referral Description:** In June 2022, Salinas City Council explored setting aside funding and began to engage in meetings with the County of Monterey Behavioral Health Department about potentially launching a joint crisis response pilot program modeled after CAHOOTS Crisis Assistance in Eugene, Oregon or the STAR Program in Denver. This referral requests that County Behavioral Health and Health Department staff further explore launching such a program in collaboration with the City of Salinas. The County Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding would be a logical source for such a potential pilot project.

CAHOOTS (Crisis Assistance Helping Out on the Streets) began 34 years ago in Eugene, Oregon to provide an innovative community-based public safety system for crises involving mental illness, homelessness and addiction as part of a community-policing initiative. The CAHOOTS teams deal with a wide range of mental health-related crises, including conflict resolution, welfare checks, substance abuse, suicide threats, and more, relying on trauma-informed de-escalation and harm reduction techniques. The non-law enforcement staff handle non-emergency medical issues, avoiding costly ambulance transport and emergency room treatment. CAHOOTS call come to Eugene’s 911 system or the police non-emergency number. Dispatchers are trained to recognize non-violence situations with a behavioral health component and route those calls to CAHOOTS. A team will respond, assess the situation and provide immediate stabilization in case of urgent medical needs or psychological crisis, assesment, information, referral, advocacy, and, when warranted, transporation to the next step in treatment. The cost savings are considerable. The program budget is \$2.1 million annually, while the combined budget of Eugene and Springfield police departments are \$90 million. In 2017, the CAHOOTS teamed answered 17% of the Eugene Police Department’s overall call volume. The program saves the city an estimated \$8.5 million in public safety spending annually.

STAR (Support Team Assisted Response) was launched in June 2020 in Denver. It provides person-centric mobile crisis response to community members who are experiencing problems related to mental health, depression, poverty, homelessness and/or substance abuse issues. Similar to CAHOOTS, 911 calls for these types of issues are routed to STAR, which sends a licenses behavioral health professional and a paramedic to a person in distress. When the unit arrives, the individual in crisis can be assured that the interaction is ground in a harm reduction, trauma-informed philosophy. The team, dressed in street clothes, provides direct clinical de-escalation and community service connection, as well as on-demand resources such as water, food, clothing and basic living supports.

Salinas Police Chief Roberto Felice has expressed his support for such a pilot program in Salinas. This potential calloboration was also raised recently during the City of Salinas-County Ad Hoc Committee.

Classification - Implication	Mode of Response
<input type="checkbox"/> Ministerial / Minor <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Policy: Behavioral Health <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budget Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Memo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Report <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation
	Requested Response Timeline
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 weeks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 month <input type="checkbox"/> 8 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Status reports until completed <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Date: _____

**ASSIGNMENT – Provided by CAO at Board Meeting. Copied to Board Offices and Department Head(s)  
Completed by CAO’s Office:**

Department(s): <a href="#">Health Department</a>	Referral Lead: <a href="#">Elsa Jimenez</a>	Board Date: <a href="#">05/23/23</a>
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**REASSIGNMENT – Provided by CAO. Copied to Board Offices and Department Head(s). Completed by CAO’s Office:**

Department(s):	Referral Lead:	Original Date:
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**ANALYSIS - Completed by Department and copied to Board Offices and CAO:**

Department analysis of resources required/impact on existing department priorities to complete referral:	
Analysis Completed By: _____	<b>Department’s Recommended Response Timeline</b>
Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> By requested date <input type="checkbox"/> 2 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 1 month <input type="checkbox"/> 6 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> 6 months <input type="checkbox"/> 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Specific Date: _____

**REFERRAL RESPONSE/COMPLETION - Provided by Department to Board Offices and CAO:**

Referral Response Date:	Board Item No.:	Referrals List Deletion:
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**Note:** Please cc Claudia Escalante and Karina Bokanovich on all CAO correspondence relating to referrals.