Police Assisted Referral

Research indicates that police spend as much as 90% of their time in non-arrest situations – calls for disputes with children and family members, mediation, and general interactions with citizens. Police Assisted Referral (PAR) is a collaborative program that creates a conduit for police officers to connect violence-exposed youths and families to violence-prevention services, education, and mental health screening and treatment.

Since its inception in 2010, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority Police (CMHAPD) have referred over 4,600 individuals to FrontLine – including over 1,700 adults, and 2,900 youths.

Citizens Served
CMHA serves over 50,000 low-income residents, most are African American and live in single female headed households.
- 98% of families receive contact and/or educational material from the mental health provider
- 20% of families agree to participate in on-going services
  - information & referral, assessment, on-going treatment

Results of Empirical Research
A survey was mailed to all adult participants (1,119 viable addresses) and yielded 270 responses (24% return rate).
- 90% of respondents felt the interaction with the officer was respectful
- 76% of respondents indicated that the referral was helpful to them
- 93% thought all police should be able to make referrals like these
- 38% had a better opinion of police, 57% of respondents' opinions were the same, and only 4% had a lower opinion of police
- When asked if the program should continue: “It gives the police and citizens more chances to connect;” “They were there when I needed it most;” “it makes my situation more personal to the officer;” “it’s good for single moms who need help;” and “Yes, because it show how the community and police can work together.”

Partner Organizations
- Partnership for a Safer Cleveland – community advocacy & project administration
- Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority – local police agency
- FrontLine – crisis care & mental health services
- Begun Center, Case Western Reserve University – project research & evaluation

PAR operates with the generous support of local funders and a $200,000 matching grant (2011-2013) from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Funding Partners:
- The Cleveland Foundation, Diversity Focused Funders
- Saint Luke’s Foundation
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Local Funding Partnership joins the resources of a national foundation with local grantmakers to support ambitious new community initiatives that meet people where health starts—where they live, learn, work and play.

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Resident and Police say...

"Because this helps the officers to be consistent and helpful"  "It brings me security that I have officers to protect me."

Makes it better for the residents in our community  "Resources are given to people that are unaware of the availability"  "It is a very important program to continue because it helps identify the needs of the residents that live in the community"  "With police being more visible, maybe it will cut down on assaults and robberies, fights and other crimes"  "Because some people don’t have knowledge of the help that’s really available to them"  "Because I feel safer with this program and the police coming in the area"  "Because it changes the kids idea of the police"  "It made me feel like they truly care and it was helpful"

Any police officer I come in contact with was nice to me and my sons and make us feel like they care and I appreciate that.

Resident Quote

CMHA has a hard job to do, but with the help of the neighborhood and community thing will only improve.

Resident Quote

... the positive responses are not from actually being called back to the residence, it’s just from passing by and seeing people, they’ll just stop me and say how nice it was.

Police Officer Quote

Resident Quote

... when I’ve explained it to [residents]... they were very interested. They were actually looking for help, but didn’t know where to look.

Police Officer Quote

It’s helpful to people afraid to speak out or do not have anyone to talk to.

Resident Quote

So the people in the neighborhood could feel safe and know that someone have our back.

Resident Quote