



# Marcus Alert

*A community response to a behavioral health crisis*

# Marcus Alert System

- Legislation requires phased implementation through July 1, 2026
  - It is a set of protocols that dictate a specific response, not an alert to the public
  - State stakeholders [DBHDS §37.2-311.1 & DCJS §9.1-193 ] and partner agencies will establish protocols for responding to individuals with behavioral health conditions
- **M**ental Health
  - **A**wareness
  - **R**esponse &
  - **C**ommunity
  - **U**nderstanding
  - **S**ervices

# Goals of Marcus Alert System

- Increase
  - Access to care for individuals in crisis
  - Access to timely treatment
  - Sense of dignity
  - Public recognition of community mental health needs
- Decrease
  - Likelihood of physical confrontation
  - Arrests, detention and use-of-force
  - Injuries during crisis events
  - Need for mental health treatment in jail
  - Psychiatric hospitalizations

# State Level Initiatives

- Four-level triage based on urgency
- Development of regional mobile crisis teams
- Regional Call Center and Federal x988 implementation
- Statewide Equity at Intercept o Initiative
- Statewide training standards
- Statewide public service campaign

# Marcus Alert System Protocols

Marcus Alert protocols are expected to clarify procedures and plans to ensure that therapeutic crisis care is equally accessible, safe and least restrictive for all Virginians regardless of race, ethnicity or disability.

## Divert

- Divert behavioral health crisis calls to a behavioral health crisis response system

## Develop

- Develop agreements between law enforcement and behavioral health providers for back-up during a mobile crisis response when mobilized

## Facilitate

- Facilitate a specialized law enforcement response to behavioral health crisis situations

# Mobile Crisis Response Requirement

- Community Care Team
  - Mental Health Providers (Team Lead)
  - May include Peer Recovery Specialist and/or Law Enforcement Officer
- Mobile Crisis Team
  - One or more qualified or licensed mental health professional
  - May include a Peer Recovery Specialist
  - Law Enforcement is not part of this team, but may provide backup support

# Existing Crisis Services

*public system of care*

## Local – *existing*

- Emergency Services assessments
- Mobile Crisis Response - child and adult (limited hours)
- Crisis Intervention Team – Training and Assessment Center (SRMH)
- Residential Crisis Stabilization

## Regional – *in process*

- Crisis Call Center & x988 National Suicide Helpline
- Mobile Crisis Response – child and adult / multi-disciplinary (behavioral health & developmental disabilities)
- 23-Hour Crisis Receiving Centers

# State Marcus Alert Timeline

- July 2021 – State Plan and Policies submitted to the General Assembly
- December 2021 – 5 CSBs begin the pilot of the locally derived MA plan
- July 2022 – 5 more CSBs begin the locally derived MA plan
- July 2026 – all 40 CSBs have implemented the local MA plan



# Local Next Steps

- Facilitate local stakeholder group to design Marcus Alert Response
- Draft Marcus Alert Policies for a 2026 implementation, if required
- Submit required documentation and outcomes to DBHDS & DCJS as required