

Howard County Police Department Mental Health Community Liaison

In 2013, the Howard County Police Department and the Howard County Mental Health Authority worked together to create a Mental Health Community Liaison. This individual, working within the Police Department, is a certified professional counselor whose job is to focus on improving mental health training of police officers, coordinate resources available to persons and families of persons with mental health issues, and examine calls for service to the police department involving persons with mental illness. The position operates with the knowledge that **better training means better outcomes**, and **less danger to everyone involved**, and **getting persons with mental illness to the right resources and treatment will decrease the need for emergency response**.

Please feel free to contact the
Mental Health Community Liaison at
410-313-6017

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION: Why do police have to use handcuffs? Doesn't that mean they've been arrested?

It is important to know, and often misunderstood, that in cases of emergency petition, your loved one is NOT being arrested. Persons taken to HCGH by officers for an emergency petition are handcuffed, by policy, for the safety of both the officer and the person being treated.

Advocacy, Education, & Support

HOWARD COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
HCMHA ensures the availability of quality public mental health services in Howard County, and provides education and information regarding available resources. www.hcmha.org
Executive Director: 410.313.7350
Adult Services: 410.313.7375
Child & Adolescent Services: 410.313.7378
Psycho-Geriatric Services: 410.313.5706
Foreign Born Services: 410.313.7376

NAMI HOWARD COUNTY
NAMI Howard County provides free services, resources and support for families and individuals affected by mental illness. 410.772.9300
www.nami.org/sites/namihowardcounty

ON OUR OWN OF HOWARD COUNTY
On Our Own provides support and offers education and advocacy for persons with mental illness along with those suffering with substance addiction. The Wellness and Recovery Center provides a place for individuals to meet with peers for support. There is no cost to participate. 410.772.7905

MARLAND COALITION OF FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH
Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health is dedicated to improving services for children with mental health needs and their families. 410-730-8267, www.mdcoalition.org

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF CITIZEN SERVICES: MARYLAND ACCESS POINT
This county agency is composed of the Office on Aging, Office of Children's Services, and Office of Consumer Affairs. 410.313.6400 /1.800.506.5806
www.marylandaccesspoint.info

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
Information, resources, and research all those affected by Alzheimer's and related dementias. 1.800.272.3900, www.alz.org

Howard County Police Department
and the
Howard County
Mental Health Authority

Mental Health Crisis:

What Happened? What's Next?

Information and Resources



Case Number: _____

Officer: _____



Howard County Police
Community Outreach Section
Mental Health Liaison
410-313-6017

You are not alone. We are here to help.

Mental illness affects **1 in 4 people**.

We understand how difficult this can be at times. We want to offer you the help and support you need.

There are resources to help you.

Emergency Services

In an emergency circumstance, call 9-1-1. Officers will respond to situations where someone with a mental health issue has gone missing, lost control, or is a danger to themselves or someone else.

The Howard County Police Department has **trained crisis intervention team (CIT) officers**. While all officers have received mental health training, crisis intervention officers have received specialized training in interacting with people with mental health issues. They are taught techniques to help calm a volatile situation, and provide compassionate responses that prioritize treatment over incarceration, when appropriate. They are also trained in the resources available to help your and your loved one.

You should know that you can ask if there is a **CIT-trained officer** available once other officers arrive on scene. If there are, you can ask that they also respond to your location to assist.

In addition to calling police during a crisis, these other resources are available for immediate assistance:

HOWARD COUNTY MOBILE CRISIS TEAM

410.531.6677

The Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) consists of trained mental health professionals who can spend time with a person in crisis and complete a mental health assessment to determine what next step should be taken. MCT can be requested to assist police officers on location by either you or police officers. They operate 7 days a week, from 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

GRASSROOTS CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTER

6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044

410.531.6677 www.grassrootscrisis.org

The Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center offers a hotline that provides 24/7 telephone counseling and free walk-in counseling.

HOWARD COUNTY GENERAL HOSPITAL

5755 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044

410.740.7890

The HCGH psychiatric unit completes emergency evaluations on people in crisis, on both a voluntary and involuntary basis. This is where your loved one would be taken by police during an emergency petition. It is important to know, and often misunderstood, that in cases of emergency petition, your loved one is NOT being arrested. People taken to Howard County General Hospital by officers for an emergency petition are handcuffed for safety, not because they are under arrest.

Behavioral Health Services

If you or your family has private health insurance coverage through your employer, you will need to contact your insurance and request a referral for mental health or substance abuse services.

If you or your family member is uninsured, unemployed, and/or receiving Medical Assistance (MA), contact the **Howard County Mental Health Authority** at 410.313.7350. HCMHA will assist with arranging outpatient mental health counseling services along with other services for which you may be eligible.

“**The Door to Healthcare**” is a program of Healthy Howard that provides free help in choosing affordable, quality health coverage. The Door to Healthcare provides practical answers about the right choice and assistance with signing up for health insurance. This agency is the official consumer assistance organization for Maryland Health Connect. Contact The Door to Healthcare toll free at 855.288.3667 or www.healthyhowardmd.org.

Additional online resources for support

www.mdcsi.org

www.hcdrugfree.org

www.mdveterans.networkofcare.org

www.howard.md.networkofcare.org