

Pharr Police Department Mental Health Unit



Pharr Police Department & Tropical Texas Behavioral Health have teamed up to form a new Mental Health Unit to serve the residents of Pharr, Texas. This training aims to further inform and educate the officers in the areas of mental health to include advanced crisis intervention. Mental Health Officers will assist in evaluating and assessing persons (both juvenile and adults) with mental illness who are in a mental crisis.

The Pharr Police Department is trying to ramp up more compassionate responses to calls regarding individuals who may be experiencing a crisis. The MHU also follows up with individuals that the police have come in contact with to make sure they have the help and resources they need to improve their quality of life.

“Today’s policing demands our officers understand mental illness on a deeper level,” said Chief Harvey. “When the police are called to resolve situations where individuals are dealing with a crisis, we are more effective at helping the person when we work together with highly trained medical personnel and other agencies,” he continued, adding, “Arrests should not be the only option in these cases.”

The Pharr Police Department Mental Health Unit program was developed to better serve those in crisis by partnering with individuals with mental health issues, their families, and mental health agencies and organizations.

To impact this region, the Pharr Police Department has been working with/assisting other local agencies to address mental health issues in their communities. This assistance includes developing the agency’s own Mental Health Unit, attending and participating in regional meetings/discussions, training opportunities for Police Departments, and assisting with mutual aid to those departments that encounter mental health situations. “We have had non-profits, social service agencies, other behavioral centers, and even our business community reach out and attend our meetings because they see the value and want to be a part of the change. “This has been a game changer”, Chief Harvey added.

TML
RISK POOL