

# CORE OUTREACH PROGRAM MEDIA KIT



Oakland Community  
Health Network

*Developmental Disabilities • Mental Health • Substance Recovery*



*"Responding as One"*



# NEWS RELEASE

October 17, 2024

## **Ferndale, Hazel Park, Madison Heights, and Royal Oak Police Departments Launch Co-Response Community Outreach (CoRe) Program in Partnership with Oakland Community Health Network**

Oakland County, MI – The Ferndale, Hazel Park, Madison Heights, and Royal Oak Police Departments are excited to announce a new partnership with Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN). These agencies have collaborated to implement the Co-Response Community Outreach program (CoRe). The CoRe program is designed to address mental health and substance use disorders within the community using a multi-disciplinary response. This collaboration aims to enhance public safety by integrating mental health clinicians directly into police responses.

The official launch of the CoRe program will be announced at a press conference on October 29, 2024, at 10:30 AM at the Royal Oak Police Department. Representatives from Ferndale, Hazel Park, Madison Heights, and Royal Oak Police Departments, along with OCHN will be in attendance.

The program will embed two mental health professionals within the four participating departments to provide immediate support and resources to individuals experiencing mental health or substance use crises. The CoRe program seeks to complement traditional law enforcement by offering mental health interventions at critical moments, before, during, and after a crisis. Law enforcement officers will collaborate with trained mental health clinicians to ensure that community members in crisis receive the necessary care and support.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



Each participating department will form a dedicated CoRe Team consisting of a CoRe Team Coordinator, CoRe Liaison Officers, and a Mental Health Clinician. These clinicians will provide essential services such as case consultations, referrals to community resources, and coordination of ongoing care. The co-responders will also play a vital role in training and assisting CoRe Teams, ensuring a seamless connection between law enforcement and mental health services.

The two mental health clinicians hired for the CoRe program have received comprehensive training tailored to the specific needs of law enforcement. This training included familiarizing themselves with department policies, participating in officer ride-alongs, shadowing experienced co-responders, and receiving safety training alongside law enforcement personnel.

This initiative underscores the commitment of these police departments to serve their communities with compassion and professionalism. Through this innovative partnership, the CoRe program will enhance the ability to respond effectively to mental health challenges, providing critical support to those in need.

For more information about the CoRe program and the upcoming press conference, please contact:

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# OVERVIEW

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## CoRe PROGRAM

The Ferndale, Royal Oak, Madison Heights, and Hazel Park Police Departments are excited to announce a new partnership with the Co-Response Community Outreach (CoRe) Program. This innovative mental health community outreach initiative contracts two mental health clinicians from Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) to work with the four police departments. This partnership will provide community members affected by mental health and substance use disorders with additional support. The program aims to supplement police response with specialized approaches, offering support before, during, and after a crisis.

Each police department will have its own CoRe Team, consisting of the CoRe Team Coordinator, CoRe Liaison Officers, and a Mental Health Clinician. The clinician will be embedded within the law enforcement setting to offer case consultations, coordinate services, and provide referrals for individuals in need. Additionally, the Mental Health Clinician will assist the CoRe Teams with training and coordination. The two clinicians have undergone extensive prerequisite training to ensure a smooth partnership and effective operations. This training included reviewing policies and procedures, 40 hours of ride-alongs with police officers, 40 hours of shadowing a co-responder, safety training with law enforcement, and more.

The program focuses on connecting individuals with essential services and, when possible, diverting them from the criminal justice system. By working together, this initiative enhances the community's response to people in crisis by integrating proactive mental health clinicians into the field. These clinicians provide critical services and mental health follow-up, promoting early intervention and reducing the need for repeated or emergency police involvement. In turn, this lowers the risk of force or escalation. The ultimate goal is to link individuals with long-term, stabilizing support that improves their well-being.

Having a mental health clinician on call to accompany police officers in the field represents a major advancement in community support. The partnership between the four police departments and the CoRe program highlights their commitment to public safety. This new resource marks significant progress in serving the community, with optimism for the continued growth of this partnership over time.

# ALYSSA

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## CO-RESPONDER

Alyssa has been a Co-Responder with OCHN since August 2024. Alyssa has a strong background in helping families through transitional and traumatic experiences and a passion volunteer work.

Fun Fact: Alyssa has been actively involved with the Metro Detroit Youth Foundation and Attack Hunger Detroit.



**I feel honored to be welcomed by these four communities to serve individuals alongside our police departments. I look forward to being further involved in the communities and continuing to do justice by those with needs related to mental health and substance use.**

# SABRINA

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## CO-RESPONDER

Sabrina has been a Co-Responder with OCHN since July 2024 and has loved creating a positive effect on the communities served.

Sabrina comes from a background in the prison system, which allowed insight to the role mental health services play in supporting individuals and law enforcement. Sabrina is committed to merging mental health expertise with law enforcement to support the communities served.

Fun Fact: Sabrina is born and raised Canadian.



**Being a co-responder is incredibly rewarding. I'm proud to be a part of this team and to partner with the dedicated officers in each of these departments. Working alongside law enforcement, I see firsthand the impact we've been able to make together—helping individuals in crisis and building trust within our communities. Ultimately, it's all about making a positive difference in people's lives, and that's what motivates me every day.**

# MICHAEL MOORE

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## CHIEF OF POLICE ROYAL OAK

Chief Michael Moore has been serving the Royal Oak community for the last twenty-five years. Prior to being appointed Chief, he has held the rank of patrol officer, field training officer tasked with training new recruits, detective, task force officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration, sergeant, patrol lieutenant, commander of the professional standards unit, and deputy chief of both staff services and operations.

Chief Moore holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice as well as a master's degree in Criminology, both from Michigan State University. Chief Moore is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, session #284. He is also a graduate of Eastern Michigan University's School of Police Staff and Command Executive Leadership Program.

Chief Moore is an active member of the Oakland County Association of Chiefs of Police, Southeastern Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the FBI National Academy Associates. Chief Moore currently serves on the Oakland County Prosecutor's Law Enforcement Advisory Board as well as the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Narcotic Enforcement Team Advisory Board.

Chief Moore has been actively involved in the recruitment and hiring of new police officers. He created a cadet program that employs students seeking a career in law enforcement on a part-time basis. The program is already proven successful as five former cadets have attended the police academy and are now sworn police officers at the Royal Oak Police Department.

Chief Moore is a firm believer in partnering with the community to build trust. He recently authored an article published in Police One entitled, "Community Engagement: Back to Basics". The article provided a roadmap for law enforcement agencies to connect with the community they serve that have minimal fiscal impact.

When not focused on the City of Royal Oak, he enjoys spending time with his wife and children.



**This new program will connect those in crisis with the valuable resources they desperately need and potentially save lives.**

# DENNIS EMMI

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## CHIEF OF POLICE FERNDALE

Dennis Emmi was named Ferndale's Chief of Police on January 1, 2021, following a two-year tenure as the department's Captain. He is a 27-year veteran, starting his law enforcement career with the department in 1994 as a Police Service Aid. Chief Emmi is a lifelong resident of Ferndale and a Ferndale High School alum. Emmi is a 2009 graduate of the Eastern Michigan University School of Police Staff and Command and a graduate of the 286th session of the FBI National Academy. He served six years as an Airborne Infantry soldier in the Michigan Army National Guard. Chief Emmi has risen through the ranks of the Ferndale Police Department as a patrol officer, Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain. Throughout his career, Emmi served as a Detective with the Oakland County Narcotic Enforcement Teams, Deputy Team Commander and Sniper Team Leader of Southeast Oakland SWAT Team, and Team Commander of the Ferndale Police Honor Guard.

He is a member of the Oakland County Association of Chiefs of Police, the Southeastern Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the FBI National Academy Associates. Chief Emmi is currently serving on the Oakland County Prosecutor's Law Enforcement Advisory Board and the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Narcotic Enforcement Teams Advisory Board of Directors. Chief Emmi adheres to the six pillars of community policing set forth by the President's task force on 21st Century Policing. One of the task force recommendations was the creation of a Citizens Police Advisory and Review Board to promote community engagement and to build trust and legitimacy. Over the past two years, he has worked closely with city officials to create the city's first Citizens Police Advisory and Review Board. This newly created body will review police conduct complaints, conduct policy reviews, and provide recommendations to the City Manager. Chief Emmi is committed to continually improving police community relations while being a benchmark for a modern police department.



**We are excited to bring this additional resource to Ferndale and look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have.**

# WILLIAM HAMEL

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## CHIEF OF POLICE HAZEL PARK

William Hamel has been serving with the Hazel Park Police Department for over 28 years. His career in law enforcement spans over 33 years where he started as a Police Dispatcher and Police Reserve Officer for neighboring police departments. Chief Hamel was sworn in as a Police Officer with the Hazel Park Department in 1996. During his tenure with Hazel Park, he served as a Road Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Auto Theft Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Field Training Coordinator, Patrol Lieutenant, Detective Lieutenant, and Acting Chief. He was named Chief of Police in June of 2024.

Chief Hamel has received four Unit Commendations, a Certificate of Merit, a Departmental Citation, several Safe Driving Awards, an Auto Theft Investigator of the Year award, a Distinguished Unit Citation from the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, and numerous letters of appreciation from citizens and law enforcement partners.

Chief Hamel is a graduate of the Oakland Police Academy and ranked 3rd in his class. He holds an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement. His continuing education includes Auto Theft Investigations, Internal Investigations, Incident Command, Field Force Command and Planning, Response to Use of Force, First Line Supervision, and Executive Leadership training. He is a member of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

Chief Hamel was instrumental in implementing body cameras to be worn by police officers starting in 2018. This was inline with the department's mission and core values of integrity, accountability, respect, innovation, dedication, and service.



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**Co-Responders are providing the resources that police have been asking for and needed for years.**

# BRENT LEMERISE

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## CHIEF OF POLICE MADISON HEIGHTS

Brent LeMerise has been a law enforcement officer for 22 years and was appointed to the Police Chief on July 1, 2023. As he worked his way up the ranks, he held specialized positions such as Detective, Hostage Negotiator, FTO Commander, and Accreditation Manager. As the first Accreditation Manager in police department history, Chief LeMerise was proud to lead the department through the process of holding itself to the highest professional standards.

Chief LeMerise graduated from Northwestern Staff & Command School in May 2024. He holds an associate degree from Macomb Community College and currently is seeking his bachelor's degree through Ferris State university. He is a member of the Oakland County Association of Chiefs of Police, the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Under his leadership, the department will continue to serve the public, build trust, and remain united with our community.



**The Madison Heights Police Department is excited to pair up with our partner agencies and OCHN to reach out to those in need of assistance. I believe these partnerships are crucial to the success of co-responder program.**

## CO-RESPONDER BACKGROUND

Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) is the public behavioral health system for Oakland County, Michigan. OCHN leads a provider service network that assists approximately 29,000 Oakland County citizens at more than 400 service sites across the county.

People who receive public behavioral health services through OCHN's provider network include those who have an intellectual or developmental disability, mental health challenge, and/or substance use disorder. OCHN's goal is to ensure these individuals are aware of and have access to services and supports that will improve their health and quality of life, as well as ensure their engagement in full community participation.

OCHN launched their Co-Response Community Outreach (CoRe) initiative in August 2021. The OCHN CoRe initiative has clinicians co-respond with local law enforcement to calls identified as requiring mental health and/or substance use related support. Crisis intervention is provided to deescalate and/or stabilize youth and adults to prevent further justice involvement, when possible. In addition, individuals are provided with service coordination, and referral to various resources.

# COMMUNITY CORE: CO-RESPONDER INITIATIVE

## COLLABORATIVE APPROACH BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

### OVERVIEW

- OCHN Clinician(s) work with law enforcement agencies
- Partner law enforcement with mental health and substance use disorder resources
- Improves services and response for those impacted by behavioral health crises
- Added support for responding officers before, during, and after crisis

### GOAL

Connect individuals to services



Diversion



Use least restrictive measures to secure welfare



Reduce repeat call for services



### BENEFIT

Increased access to behavioral health system

Redirection from jails to services

Reduced rates of involuntary hospitalization and increased officer safety

Reduced amount of police time spent on behavioral health related calls for service

Total **4,578** referrals from law enforcement

**49%** Remained in the community

**22%** Voluntary transports to crisis center / emergency department

**3%** Arrests

\*August 2021 - September 2024

The percentages above are meant to represent a snapshot of data that was collected from partnering law enforcement agencies. Other data outcomes were collected (gone on arrival, jail diversion, involuntary transports to crisis center/ED, N/A, Other).

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Oakland Community  
Health Network

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# CO-RESPONDER ON-BOARDING PROCESS

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Hiring Agency:	[Blue bar]		[Blue bar]					
CIT Training		[Blue bar]						
Police Ride Along			[Blue bar]				[Green bar: additional time]	
Co-Responder					[Blue bar]		[Green bar: additional time]	
Soft-Roll Out							[Blue bar]	



## CO-RESPONDER ON-BOARDING TIMELINE

### WEEK 1,3 & 4:

- Co-responder attends on-boarding through OCHN's Human Resources (HR) department and reviews policies, procedures, benefits, insurance, etc.
- Co-responder receives OCHN issued technology.
- Co-responder reviews specific policies and procedures related to role, meets team members, familiarizes themselves with populations served, and completes agency required trainings.

### WEEK 2:

- Co-responder attends a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training alongside law enforcement (LE) and discovers what tools LE are learning to assist citizens in a mental health crisis.

### WEEK 3 & 4:

- Co-responder rides along with their assigned LE agency(ies) for at least 40 hours.
- Ride-alongs give insight into police culture, procedures, specific language used, and helps build positive relationships.

### WEEK 5 & 6:

- Co-responder shadows existing OCHN Co-responders.
- Shadow experience includes response to crisis calls, education on cross-system collaboration, review of policies and internal procedures, dress code, safety measures, prioritization of cases, time management, incident report (IR) completion, data collection, equipment usage (i.e. vest, radio, etc.), etc.

### WEEK 7 & 8:

- Co-responder soft-launches with their assigned agency(ies) and is assigned additional trainings as needed.

# POINTS OF CONTACT

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