

June 21, 2021

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Public Safety and Human Services Committee Name  
**From:** Amy Gore, Analyst  
**Subject:** Community Safety Investments

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On Tuesday, June 22, 2021, the Human Services Department (HSD) will brief the Public Safety and Human Services (PSHS) Committee on that status of Council's budget actions related to programs that support the City's health and crisis response. This memo provides background information on these investments.

### Background

In 2020 and 2021 the Council expanded funding for public safety programs, including approving new or expanded investments, and transferring certain programs from the Seattle Police Department (SPD) to other departments. The majority of these programs were consolidated into the new Safe and Thriving Communities Division at HSD ([Ordinance 126237](#)) or the new Community Safety and Communications Center ([Ordinance 126233](#)).

The PSHS Committee has received briefings, and in some cases taken additional action, on these items throughout 2021, including:

- Crisis Response Continuum Roundtable ([06/08/2021](#))
- Community Safety and Communications Center Transfer ([05/11/2021](#))
- Interdepartmental Team on Policing and Community Safety Briefing ([04/27/2021](#))
- Safe and Thriving Communities Division and Victim Advocate Transfer Briefing ([04/27/2021](#))
- Community Safety Capacity Building Request for Proposals (RFP) Proviso Lift ([03/09/2021](#))
- Seattle Community Safety Initiative ([01/26/2021](#))
- Community Safety Capacity Building Process ([01/26/2021](#))

## Health and Safety Investments

The briefing on June 22<sup>nd</sup> will focus on three safety and health investments that are housed in the Aging and Disability Services (ADS) and Homeless Strategy and Investment (HSI) divisions at HSD: (1) Health One; (2) the Crisis Response Team; and (3) the Mobile Crisis Team.

- 1. Health One** – Health One is housed at the Seattle Fire Department and deploys a team of two firefighters and one case manager to respond to low-acuity situations, including non-emergency medical issues and behavioral health crises. The 2021 Adopted Budget included \$575,000 for a second Health One team to be added in the first quarter which would enable the program to cover core weekday operating hours and to grow geographic coverage. In addition, the Council added over \$475,000 to establish a third Health One team ([SFD-001-B-002](#)) to be operational by the fourth quarter of 2021. This included: (1) \$254,000 to SFD for staffing costs and a third Health One Vehicle and (2) \$222,975 to HSD for case managers that are dispatched with the Health One team and for administrative support. In total, the 2021 Adopted Budget includes funding for three Health One teams to be fully operational by the end of the year.
- 2. Crisis Response Team (CRT)** – The Crisis Response Unit of the Seattle Police Department (SPD) deploys teams of one officer and one Mental Health Professional (MHP) on calls responding to individuals experiencing both chronic and acute behavioral health issues. The 2021 Adopted Budget transferred the funding for the MHPs from SPD to HSD. ([SPD-015-C-001](#)) The MHPs are contracted through the Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC).
- 3. Mobile Crisis Team (MCT)** – The Mobile Crisis Team is operated county-wide by DESC. The team deploys MHPs and Substance Use Disorder Professionals to respond to individuals who are experiencing behavioral health crises. The team accepts referrals from SPD, SFD, and Crisis Connections. The 2021 Adopted Budget included \$1.0 million for the program which was intended to fill a funding gap of \$750,000 and to expand their services. ([HOM-007-A-003](#))

## Next Steps

There is no action needed by the Committee on this item.

cc: Dan Eder, Interim Director  
Aly Pennucci, Policy and Budget Manager