

Mental Health SF Implementation Working Group Resolutions (posted June 2023)

Description: the below drafted SCRT resolutions were discussed at the April and May, 2023 MHSF IWG meetings. The following has been revised for the June 2023 meeting discussion and vote.

Resolution : A specific resolution related to SCRT reconfiguration

Whereas, the San Francisco Street Crisis Response Team (SCRT) was established as a requirement of the city's [Mental Health San Francisco legislation](#) [Section 15.104(g)(3) of Administrative Code: "Part Three: Coordinated Outreach Teams and the Establishment of the Crisis Response Street Team. (A) The Crisis Response Street Team shall be a city-wide crisis team led by **the Department** that operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, to intervene with people on the street who are experiencing a substance use or mental health crisis, with the goal of engaging them and having them enter into a system of treatment and coordinated care"];

Whereas, the Mental Health San Francisco Implementation Working Group (IWG) submitted [significant recommendations](#) for how to evaluate the SCRT teams, as well as gave input on the need for improvements on May 25, 2021, and received no response or invitation to discuss the feedback;

Whereas, SCRT has been consistently marketed to program participants, the public, city agencies, and funders as a "mental health crisis response" team consisting of trained mental health clinicians who use a "behavioral health approach."

Whereas, ~~a unilateral~~ the decision was made to remove the ~~trained~~ licensed mental health clinicians from the SCRT vans with no ~~notice or~~ request for input from the IWG, as learned in the [SF Chronicle](#) on February 19th, 2023;

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Whereas, the IWG understands that the team has been transferred from the Department of Public Health to the Department of Emergency Management (DEM);

Whereas, the IWG understands that SCRT has been combined with another street team (SWRT) with an expressly different set of purposes and goals;

Whereas, no clear justification for these actions have been presented to the IWG, nor was an explanation, request for advice, or proper evaluation presented to the IWG before the changes were made;

Whereas, the IWG understands that SCRT vehicles ~~dispatched to respond to behavioral health crisis calls~~ currently have no personnel with ~~mental health, trauma informed, de-escalation, or advanced behavioral health, or diagnostic~~ training ~~as they are dispatched to respond to mental health crisis calls~~;

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Whereas, people experiencing homelessness and mental health and/or substance use disorders tend to distrust institutional responses, for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to: past trauma, past abuse from police and other uniformed officers, symptoms of paranoia, a historical pattern of racism and abuse against their community;

Therefore, the IWG, in furtherance of its duty to advise the Department of Public Health, specified City agencies, ~~and the Mayor,~~ and Board of Supervisors on the design and effectiveness of Mental Health SF, hereby recommends and urges the following:

- ~~1. The SCRT team be placed back under DPH, rather than under DEM;~~
2. The SCRT teams include ~~mental health~~ professionals on the vehicles with ~~mental health~~ the training ~~and,~~ experience ~~and credentials~~ needed to respond to crisis on the streets ~~with from~~ a behavioral health ~~and trauma-informed~~ approach;
- ~~3. The focus of SCRT continues to be intervening with people experiencing a substance use or mental health crisis on the street, with the goal of engaging them and having them enter into a system of treatment and coordinated care, as a standalone program and is not merged with any other program or department;~~
- ~~3. Behavioral Health Services or designee performs an evaluation (that includes the input of staff, clients, and the community) and presents a set of recommendations for improvements to the IWG to consider~~
4. Departmental oversight of SCRT will include resumption of regular reports which include encounter data, demographic information, disposition and follow-up. This includes regular sharing of data, along with quarterly reports and discussion with the MHSF Implementation Working Group. -
- ~~4. An evaluation of SCRT is conducted annually and reported on to IWG and City stakeholders.~~
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Suggested routing copy of both of these resolutions to:

- DPH
- Mayor
- Board of Supervisors
- New committee being established by Ronan
- DEM
- City Attorney