

Behavioral Health Opportunities to Support Positive Change in First Responses

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Chief Executive Officer

The Guidance Center



- A non-profit children's mental health center in southern LA County
- Established in 1946
- Serving 3,500 children and families annually

Committed to our mission of mental health service, but equally committed to bettering the world in which our children grow up

Law Enforcement Mental Health Training Videos



- Partnered with LBPd, LAPD and LASD to create a video series on effective and empathic engagement of the mentally ill in the field
- Used by more than 420 departments nationally and internationally
- Available for free to any law enforcement agency thanks to a grant from The Ahmanson Foundation

Fire Department Mental Health Training Videos



- Enlisted LBFD and the LA County Regional Training Group to produce a video series on successful engagement and treatment of the mentally ill
- Used by all 30 LA County Fire Departments
- Available for free to any fire department thanks to a grant by The Ahmanson Foundation

Then Came the Murder of George Floyd



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Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



- Created an agency JEDI Committee to ensure TGC is doing our part internally and externally to respond to the racial pandemic
- Out of this was born a proposal for alternative school crisis response

Alternate School Crisis Response

- Wrote a proposal to Long Beach USD and the Long Beach School Safety Department
- Create a partnership where therapists respond to mental health crises on primary school campuses, in lieu of armed police officers
 - Most behavioral crises on primary school campuses that lead to police being called are mental health in nature
 - May include 5150s and threat assessments but are generally about emotional dysregulation and trauma
- School Crisis Response Teams – a TGC therapist paired with a School Resource Specialist – no one in uniform and no one armed
- Paid for by the School Safety Department and LBUSD

The Outcome

- Successful completion of the pilot 21-22 academic year
- Contract continued for the 22-23 academic year
- Possible expansion of the program to include all LBUSD high schools
- Data collection with goal of expansion to additional school districts

