



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
*Milwaukee County*  
CHRIS ABELE • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 30, 2014

Common Council President Murphy, Alderman Hamilton, Alderwoman Coggs:

I am writing to thank you for initiating a dialogue with the County and the Behavioral Health Division (BHD) about our community's response to violent and traumatic events. I am aware that there is a gap in service to support victims and families, especially children, after such events and hope this conversation will allow us to expand the current services offered by BHD and the collaboration that is already in existence with the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD). I am looking forward to working with you to further define the most appropriate intervention that will result in the most benefit to our community.

I am very proud to have supported the creation and current expansion of the Crisis Assessment Response Team (CART), which is a partnership between police and behavioral health specialists, as well as provided funding for Crisis Intervention Training to MPD. I think there are many opportunities for us to work together to further expand and customize these and other services to fill the gap we have defined.

BHD has expertise in training and supporting behavioral health staff, from clinical staff to community-based social workers. I believe this expertise can be of great value to MPD and the City of Milwaukee. BHD also has experience and would be able to leverage outside resources, such as Medicaid, to bring in more resources to this issue. Further, BHD has already designed successful programs targeted at prevention and crisis stabilization by strengthening community and familial support. This in turn assists with the goal of preventing entry into a more complex behavioral health system. We have done this through significant investments over the last three years into community-based services that provide the appropriate support systems. The success of these programs has resulted in better outcomes for individuals and the community including a decrease in emergency room visits and psychiatric inpatient admissions.

The next steps will be to identify other partners such as Milwaukee Public Schools and the District Attorney's Office who also play a critical role in these issues, to identify other funding opportunities, identify the scope and design the most appropriate intervention, and make sure we are able to measure outcomes so we know if we have been successful.

Again, I am thankful that you have approached us with this opportunity. It is important that we work together to make sure services are maximized and not duplicated. I look forward to further dialogue with you in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Abele".

Chris Abele  
Milwaukee County Executive

Cc: Milwaukee Common Council  
Office of Mayor Tom Barrett  
Hector Colon, County Department of Health and Human Services  
Pat Schroeder, County Behavioral Health Division  
Milwaukee County Mental Health Board

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*/programming / Matt*