



St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office
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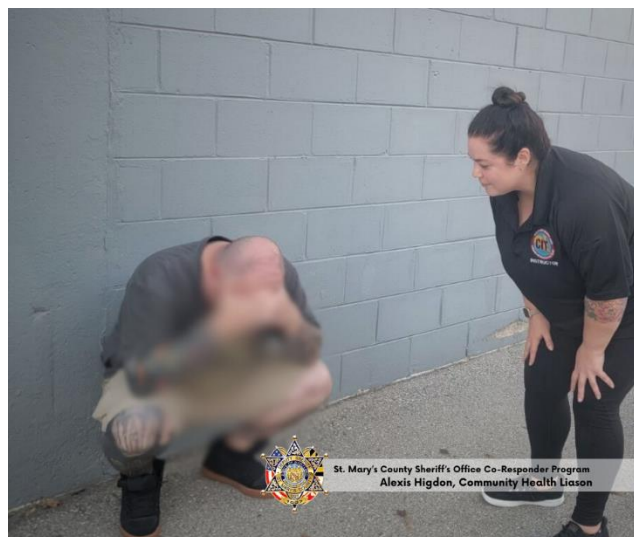
NEWS RELEASE

St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Highlights Co-Responder Program During Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

LEONARDTOWN, MD (September 3, 2024) – As the nation recognizes Suicide Prevention Awareness Month this September, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office (SMCSO) is spotlighting its innovative Co-Responder Program, a critical initiative designed to address mental health crises.

Since its inception in September 2021, the SMCSO's Co-Responder Program has been at the forefront of mental health intervention in St. Mary's County. Under the leadership of Alexis Higdon, the Community Mental Health Liaison, this program pairs sworn SMCSO Crisis Intervention Team members with a mental health professional on calls involving individuals in crisis. This unique approach allows for immediate mental health assessments and timely interventions, including connecting individuals with behavioral health care services. Over the past three years, more than a hundred individuals have received timely mental health care assistance from this program. The co-responder program is a vital part of the Sheriff's Office's commitment to reducing the risk of suicide and improving mental health outcomes in St. Mary's County.

To further support well-being, the SMCSO website, www.firstsheriff.com/community/resources, offers a comprehensive list of resources, contact information, and details for support services, including behavioral health, crisis management, financial assistance, and many other needs. Those needing immediate emotional support should call or text the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988.



St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Co-Responder Program
Alexis Higdon, Community Health Liaison

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