

Community Members Rally for Fully Funded Mobile Crisis Units

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PHILADELPHIA, Penn. — On Tuesday, March 15, members of Philadelphia’s [Treatment Not Trauma Coalition](#) (TNT) will hold a press conference outside the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbilities (DBHIDS) office to urge commissioner Dr. Jill Bowen to commit the funding necessary to fully implement the mobile crisis program expansion [promised](#) last year.

Mobile crisis units- teams staffed by a peer specialist, licensed clinician, and medical professional—are the city’s only non-police response to Philadelphians experiencing a mental health crisis. Following the murder of Walter Wallace Jr. by law enforcement, DBHIDS [said](#) it would transform the status quo of crisis care to reduce police involvement in behavioral health emergencies. Yet, progress is slow, especially when the existing non-police clinician-based program has been overshadowed by the pilot co-responder program, according to advocates.

“Last year, our communities demanded and won money for a non-police mental health crisis response, but the city continues to prioritize police co-responders,” said Nikki Grant, Policy Director at the Amistad Law Project. “Other non-police programs are successfully providing services and saving lives all over the country while Philly lags behind.”

As fatal instances of police violence continue to occur within the city of Philadelphia and around the country, TNT and community members plan to bring attention to the urgent need for a viable alternative to the police in the vast majority of instances of severe mental distress. While a truly functional alternative will take time to roll out in accordance with the input of community stakeholders, especially those directly impacted by the crisis response system, the first step is to ensure that this is a strong budgetary priority for the next fiscal year.

More information and resources are at:

www.tntnow.org