

## Counselor and Law Enforcement Partnership (CALEP) *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **What is the Counselor and Law Enforcement Partnership?**

Citizen Advocates and the Saranac Lake Village Police Department developed this innovative pilot program to provide mental health and addiction treatment services that present during the course of routine police calls.

### **How does it work?**

Pending local and state approval of the CALEP program, Citizen Advocates will hire a full-time clinician who is either a Licensed Mental Health Counselor or a Licensed Master Social Worker. This clinician will be utilized exclusively for the CALEP program in partnership with the Saranac Lake Police Department.

### **How does the clinician support the police department?**

The CALEP Clinician will be notified in response to mental health or substance abuse calls received by the police department. After the situation is deemed safe by law enforcement, the clinician will meet at the scene. The clinician will not ride along with law enforcement officers.

### **What happens next?**

Once it is determined that the call requires treatment for mental health or addiction, the CALEP therapist takes over. There will be a brief risk assessment from the CALEP therapist to determine if there is an immediate need for a

higher level of crisis care. If not, the therapist will provide a crisis intervention service with the individual and follow up appointments will be scheduled for ongoing care with a community provider.

### **Does the individual have to be seen by a Citizen Advocates clinician after meeting with the CALEP clinician?**

No. The intent of the program is to connect each individual with the appropriate service, regardless of who provides the care.

### **Are there other services the CALEP Clinician will provide?**

Yes. The CALEP Clinician will provide crisis debriefing and crisis intervention training to the police department as requested, and will also provide support to the Citizen Advocates' Saranac Lake Outpatient Clinic at 70 Edgewood Road.

### **Is this program the first of its kind?**

While this is new to our area, it is not a new concept. A similar program has been in operation for several years in Eugene, Ore. The CAHOOTS initiative is a 24/7 mobile crisis intervention program that works in conjunction with local law enforcement. To learn more, visit <https://whitebirdclinic.org/cahoots/>.

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