

Safety SCENE

By the Scott County
Sheriff's Office



Mental health team assists deputies with crisis intervention

The Sheriff's Office is always looking for ways to improve and expand the services available to our citizens experiencing mental illness. We are continuously evaluating internal programming, leveraging and attempting to expand resources, and identifying new innovative ways that we can positively impact someone's life and keep them out of the criminal justice system.

Undoubtedly, Scott County has seen an increase in need for mental health services. Our goal is to be able to support each person quickly and with quality care that sets them up for ongoing success in their lives and in the community. To do so, resources must be available in our community and we need to be certain that our staff is equipped to properly recognize and respond to mental health challenges.

Beginning in 2014, the Scott County Board adopted an approach wherein mental illness would not be criminalized. From this, the Board Strategy Workgroup was formed -- including members from the Sheriff's Office, Savage Police Department, Scott County Social Services, the Scott County Jail, Public Health, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the County Attorney's Office, Scott County Community Corrections, and community mental health providers. This group identified gaps in the mental health care system, including the need for a community-based mobile mental health crisis response team and Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS).

Mobile Mental Health Crisis services in Scott County underwent a recent change from being a service provided jointly by Carver and Scott Counties to now having Canvas Health as the Scott County-specific service provider. Canvas Health -- a well-established provider of mental health, chemical health, and crisis services in the metro -- is housed in the Law Enforcement Center (Sheriff's Office) in Shakopee and provides 24/7 phone triage and a mobile response in the community for people located in the county who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

Law enforcement is often the first to be called to respond to people experiencing mental health emergencies. Partnering with a mobile crisis team reduces the number of calls to law enforcement, and reduces unnecessary hospitalization and/or police involvement. Mobile crisis teams can offer background information on the individual to help contextualize the situation in terms of the individual's past history and outcomes. This information can be vital to helping law enforcement interact and divert individuals to appropriate care. Involving the mobile crisis team allows law enforcement to do their primary job: Ensuring the person's safety and enforcing the law.

There are currently no crisis stabilization or Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) that provide short-term inpatient care for adults with mental illness in Scott County. Because of this, the Sheriff's Office regularly transports patients to cities across the state and beyond, removing them from their family and community supports. Scott County officials were able to successfully push for a bill to provide \$1.4 million in state bond proceeds toward building the proposed IRTS facility (a building site has been identified in Savage). Guild Incorporated, a Minnesota non-profit organization that specializes in treatment and services for people with mental illness, is currently working with Scott County to establish this facility.

Proper training also plays a crucial role in effectively responding to mental health calls. All patrol deputies in the Sheriff's Office have completed Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) to better respond to people with mental illness. We are working to have all 911 dispatchers and jail staff also complete the training within the next two years. The implementation of CIT has improved our abilities to effectively, respectfully, and safely interact with persons with mental illness and subsequently divert more of them away from the criminal justice system and to mental health services.

A real-life example of the beneficial partnership between a mobile crisis unit and law enforcement happened recently when one of our deputies responded to a call placed by a concerned citizen reporting an individual who was displaying signs of distress near a very busy road. When the deputy arrived, he began to relieve the individual's heightened anxiety by assuring him that he was there to help and that the individual was not in trouble. In the end, the deputy calmed the individual down, brought him home and contacted Canvas Health. Canvas Health dispatched a mental health practitioner who was able to identify the individual's needs, create a safety plan to keep him at home, and connect him with local resources that would be of further assistance. Canvas Health is also providing stabilization services to this individual. This situation easily could've become much worse; however, the deputy was able to make the subject feel at ease by implementing the CIT tactics he learned and immediately getting this individual connected with the services he needs to maintain stable mental health via the mobile crisis team.

These expanded partnerships and resources, new residential treatment options, and supplementary specialized trainings, will undoubtedly improve the services provided by the Sheriff's Office and benefit those experiencing mental health issues.



Canvas Health now partners with the Scott County Sheriff's Office for mental health crisis intervention.



"Comfort" animals such as pigs, turkeys, and snakes will not be able to travel with passengers aboard planes under a new law passed this year.

Law Library News

New laws may affect you

Unmarried Parents, HF3295:

Unmarried parents that agree on child custody, child support, and parenting time will now be treated the same as divorced parents. They can file a joint petition as long as the petition includes a Recognition of Parentage that says there is no other alleged or presumed father. This will allow them to go before a judge without going through the whole family court process.

Admission of Service in Divorce, Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 405:

For over 20 years, the Law Library has been telling people that their divorce begins when the other party has them *personally* served. *This is no longer the case.* In the interest of saving money and maybe some embarrassment, it is now possible to waive the service of summons.

To request the summons be waived, the petitioner (that is, the person seeking the divorce) will need to send or deliver to the other party the following forms: the summons, petition, a form titled *Notice of Lawsuit and Request for Waiver of Service of Summons (CIV022A)* and two copies of the *Waiver of the Service of Summons (CIV022B)* with a prepaid, self-addressed envelope so the respondent can return the signed waiver. The paperwork can be sent first class mail or any other reliable means.

There is a catch, though. If the respondent (the person that is supposed to receive the divorce papers) doesn't sign the waiver and return it in 30 days, the court will order the respondent to pay the costs of serving the divorce papers and "reasonable expenses including attorney's fees, if any motion is required to collect those service expenses." It could get very expensive to ignore the waiver request. The waiver method of serving

is not a requirement, just another option. The original method of service can still be used. In the original method, the petitioner can still ask a person (someone over the age of 18 and not a party to the case), hire a service, or pay the Sheriff to hand-deliver the forms and complete and file the *Affidavit of Personal Service*.

Oinky has to stay home! HF3157/SF2646/CH106:

It is now a crime to knowingly misrepresent your pet as a service animal to obtain rights or privileges granted to someone who qualifies for a service animal under state or federal law. Federal law defines a service animal as "any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals."

According to Delta Airlines, "Reports of animals urinating and defecating or biting have spiked some 84 percent in the last few years," forcing Delta to get tougher on some of the roughly 250,000 service or support animals that travel on its planes every year. "Customers have attempted to fly with comfort turkeys, gliding possums (known as sugar gliders), snakes, spiders, and more, ignoring the true intent of existing rules governing the transport of service and support animals can be a disservice to customers who have real and documented needs."

So it looks like Oinky, Spidey, Gobble, and Possum will all have to stay home.

There are many more laws that took effect August 1, 2018. Summaries of all laws passed by the 2018 Legislature is available online from nonpartisan House Public Information Services at <http://www.house.mn/newlaws/#/search/2018>.

Sight in guns Oct. 20, 28

With deer hunting rapidly approaching, the SCALE Public Safety Training Facility shooting range will be open for hunters to sight their guns. The range will be monitored by trained range safety personnel during the public shooting times.

Public rifle and shotgun slug shooting dates and times are:

Saturday, October 20,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday, October 28,
12 noon – 4 p.m.



The fee to use the facility range is \$15 for 20 minutes of shooting time. Reservations are not required. Check the RTF website at mn-scottcounty.civicplus.com/833/Regional-Public-Safety-Training-Facility for additional info. For questions or info contact Mike Briese, Facility Manager at (952) 496-8948 or via email at mbriese@co.scott.mn.us