



Sheriff Gary Caruana
650 W. State Street
Rockford, IL 61102
(815) 319-6300

Winnebago County Sheriff's Department



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
June 25, 2021

Contact: Katie Zimmerman
(815) 319-6322
Zimmermank@wcso-il.us

The Sheriff's Office is pleased to be selected to receive grant funding from the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board. The funding will enhance two programs that assist those with mental illness involved in the criminal justice system.

A portion of the funding will be utilized to expand the number of mental health and substance use service providers within the County Jail. The enhancement will provide additional mental health services including suicide risk assessment and prevention services for incarcerated individuals. Additionally, the newly hired service providers will help to connect individuals with community support and service providers upon discharge.

Another portion of the funding provides the dollars for the Crisis Co-Responder Team. This initiative changes the way law enforcement traditionally responds to behavior health crises by including a mental clinician on the initial response, while also providing follow up services to link individuals to the care they need.

The Co-Responder Program helps individuals with mental illness and substance abuse disorders. The grant funding expands the CCRT program and will include members of the Sheriff's Office, Rockford Police, Loves Park Police and Rosecrance, Inc.

-END-