



CITY OF LAKE FOREST PARK

CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA COVER SHEET

Meeting Date	05.26.2022
Originating Department	Executive
Contact Person	Phillip Hill, City Administrator
Title	Discuss a Potential Merger of the Kirkland Community Responder and RADAR Navigator Programs & Introduction of a Potential Regional Crisis Stabilization Unit to serve North King County

Legislative History

- First Presentation 05.26.2022
 - Second Presentation
 - Action
-

Attachments:

1. 2019 RADAR Interlocal Agreement
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Executive Summary

In February of this year, the City Managers/City Administrators from the RADAR cities began meeting to discuss the ongoing success of the RADAR program. The RADAR Navigator Program proposed the member cities, move beyond a grant-funded pilot and consider contributing General Fund dollars on a per capita basis to further expand the program.

During this time, the member cities have also begun to explore ways in which a Regional Crisis Stabilization Unit could be sited in North King County. The member cities in conjunction with King County have been working to identify the need, possible provider(s), location, and governance structure.

Background

The City of Lake Forest Park has been part of the North Sound RADAR Navigator Program since its inception. At that time, the program received grant funding from both the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) and King County's Mental Illness Drug Dependency (MIDD) Levy

and was formalized as a regional pilot program. The program deploys Mental Health Professional (MHP) Navigators in co-response with law enforcement to provide crisis de-escalation, support, and resource referral for community members with behavioral health issues, substance abuse and/or developmental disabilities. The program goals are to decrease use of force, reduce crisis events, and provide resource navigation and referral. There are three central elements of this program:

- MHP co-response with law enforcement to in-progress calls,
- Information sharing among participating jurisdictions through the creation and distribution of “Response Plans” for individuals with behavioral health or developmental disabilities that puts them at an elevated risk for use of force, and
- Law enforcement refers individuals to Navigators for resource navigation and referral to services to meet their basic, or behavioral health, needs.

The City of Bothell serves as the fiduciary and administrative agent for the program. In 2020, City of Bothell hired a 1.0 FTE RADAR Navigator Program Manager to focus on formalizing and growing the program. Currently, the program employs four part-time contractors and is in the process of shifting its staffing structure from contractors to full-time employees. In addition to the Program Manager, 2022 grant and City of Bothell funding supports two part-time contracted MHPs and three FTE MHP Navigators, which the City of Bothell is currently recruiting for. The contracted Navigators are available 2-3 days per week for partial shifts shared among the five member cities, typically during peak calls for service. As noted in the ILA, the Agreement “assumes funding for the Program Manager and other RADAR Navigator mental health professionals will come from outside agency grant funding and not from the Parties.”

The police chiefs of the five participating cities currently provide governance oversight of the RADAR program. The program has a 2022 budget of \$863,171 and is funded with grants from the King County MIDD levy, the Washington Association of Sheriffs, and Police Chiefs (WASPC), Department of Justice, and the City of Bothell’s Public Safety Levy.

Proposal to Form a Regional Entity to Provide Regional Mobile Crisis Response

Two key considerations for the City of Lake Forest Park in forming a regional entity to provide mobile crisis response are:

1. On February 16 of this year, the City Managers/City Administrators from the RADAR cities met to discuss the ongoing success of the RADAR program. The RADAR Navigator Program proposed the member cities, move beyond a grant-funded pilot and consider contributing General Fund dollars on a per capita basis to further expand the program. The member cities all indicated a willingness to invest new general fund dollars to expand the program. The proposal for “Full Implementation” would increase the program’s staffing structure from the 1.0 Program Manager and 3.0 FTE Navigators (once the shift from contractors to FTEs is complete) to a total staff of 1.0 Program Manager, 1.0 FTE Lead Navigator, 7.0 FTE Navigators, and a 0.5 Administrative Assistant. With “Full Implementation”, RADAR anticipates Navigators could spend an estimated five shifts per week in Kirkland. Depending on call data and shift structures, shifts could range from 8 to 12 hours, with the ultimate goal to have 10am – 10 pm coverage seven days per week. Lake Forest Parks share of the annual costs is estimated at \$57,000.
2. The goal is to establish 24/7 crisis response coverage. Preliminary discussions have explore merging the RADAR program and Kirkland’s Community Responder program as a regional entity along the lines of other regional bodies such as ARCH, NORCOM, and the eCity Gov Alliance. A regional crisis response program offers a number of opportunities to strengthen the partner cities’ abilities to serve those struggling with behavioral health crises:

- **Enhanced governance:** Oversight for the RADAR program currently rests with the police chiefs of the partner cities. Merging the RADAR program and the Community Responder program into a regional crisis response entity provides an opportunity to elevate the oversight of the new entity to the city managers (or their designees) and/or elected officials of the partner cities, underscoring that not all 911 calls require a police response.
- **No wrong door:** Individuals struggling with behavioral health challenges often struggle to access services. Further, those struggling with behavioral health crises often know no municipal boundaries and may have encounters with law enforcement and/or fire departments in multiple cities. Regionalizing crisis response services would allow participating cities to better coordinate how they respond to individuals in need of service regardless of the city from which the 911 call is placed. The concept “no wrong door” is often discussed as a best practice for serving those with behavioral health crises. A regional crisis response program would allow partner cities to create a “no wrong door” infrastructure.
- **Collaboration and Economies of scale:** Mobile crisis response is a relatively new field. Many cities are looking to add mobile crisis response services, resulting in jurisdictions competing for a limited pool of qualified applicants. This is evidenced by Kirkland’s challenges in filling its Community Responder program manager position and RADAR’s challenges in filling some of its positions. Merging the two programs would allow partner cities to pool program management resources. In addition, combining the resources Kirkland is currently allocating for its Community Responder program with expanded financial commitments from the other partner cities would create a larger pool of MHPs who are available to respond. This could be most notable during the overnight hours.
- **Complements work to site a crisis stabilization clinic in north King County:** The cities that would form the partnership to create a regional crisis response program are the same cities that are partnering to site a crisis stabilization clinic in north King County. A regional crisis response program would create a more seamless partnership with a future clinic, also supporting the “no wrong door” concept described above. In addition, regionalizing crisis response services may provide tangible benefits that can scale over time to incorporate other member cities, the upcoming 988 infrastructure, and a potential regional crisis stabilization facility.

Parameters of an Interlocal Agreement

Merging the two programs would involve negotiating an interlocal agreement between the five RADAR Navigator cities, similar to the agreements creating A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) or the Northeast King County Regional Public Safety Communications Agency (NORCOM). Staff recommends that the ILA create a new governance structure with a board made up of representatives from each member city, set forth a formal budgeting and weighted voting structure, outline the process for additional cities to join, and provide a methodology for determining the annual financial contributions for participating cities.

The ILA would also state the objectives of the entity, describe the services provided, and address other operational matters such as parameters for shared dispatch protocols, insurance and staff qualifications, and how this entity may interact with a potential north King County crisis stabilization clinic. Suggested parameters include:

- **Governance:** Several models for regional governance can be considered, including an oversight board of City managers/administrators, local elected officials, or some combination.

- **24/7 Hours of Operation:** The goal of this entity would ultimately be to provide 24/7 crisis response coverage, rather than just hours of peak calls for service.
- **Weighted Voting Structure:** The entity's voting structure would recognize that partner cities are contributing different levels of financial support based on population size (or similar proportional criteria such as calls for service) and would have a voting structure that would acknowledge this (e.g., weighted voting and/or veto powers) similar to other regional entities such as ARCH and NORCOM.
- **Fiscal and Administrative Agent:** Bothell is the current fiscal agent for RADAR. Another city could offer to serve as the fiscal and administrative agent for the program if Bothell is not interested in providing this function if the regional entity is created.
- **Integrated PSAP 911 and 988 Dispatch:** RADAR cities currently belong to several 911 PSAP dispatch centers. In addition, the state will be implementing a 988 hotline for mental and behavioral health crises statewide in 2022. The regional crisis response entity needs to partner with the dispatch centers to develop and implement a seamless integration between dispatch centers and 911 and 988 for the program to be successful.

Fiscal & Policy Implications

The potential fiscal implication of expanding the RADAR program is the estimated pro-rata cost share of \$57,000 per year.

Policy implications would be discussed and negotiated through the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) process.

Alternatives

<i>Options</i>	<i>Results</i>
• N/A	N/A
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Staff Recommendation

Presentation only