

Regional Crisis Response (RCR) Agency
Executive Board Meeting
February 1, 2024

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual Zoom link:

<https://kirklandwa-gov.zoom.us/j/88652463332?pwd=tMWV1gTzBTjGGwt31yO27xtajkIZIM.1>

Meeting ID: 886 5246 3332

Passcode: 849977

--On-site option available--

Kirkland City Hall

123 5th Ave, Kirkland, WA, 98033

Norkirk Room, Upper Level

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Items from the Audience
- 4) Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Minutes from Regular Meeting January 4, 2024
- 5) Resolution R-2024-01 Amending Authorized Signers for the Agency
- 6) 2023 Budget to Actuals (through December)
- 7) Discussion of Readiness to Add New Principals (a multi-meeting conversation)
- 8) Draft 2024 RCR Agency Work Plan
- 9) Executive Director Report
- 10) Good of the Order
- 11) Adjournment

Regional Crisis Response (RCR) Agency
Executive Board Regular Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2024

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual Zoom link:

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Norkirk Room, Upper Level

- 1) Call to Order
Board President Kurt Triplett called the meeting to order at 11:02 am.
- 2) Roll Call
Members Present: Kurt Triplett, Stephanie Lucash, Kyle Stannert, Lindsey Vaughn, Bristol Ellington.
- 3) Items from the Audience
None presented.
- 4) Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Minutes from Regular Meeting December 7, 2023
Bristol Ellington moved to approve the December 7, 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Stephanie Lucash.
Vote: Motion approved 4-0
Yes: Kurt Triplett, Stephanie Lucash, Lindsey Vaughn, Bristol Ellington
- 5) Crisis Clinic Levy Discussion
RCR Executive Director, Brook Buettner presented proposed Principles for Engagement for the King County Crisis Clinic Levy. Staff received feedback from the Board.
- 6) Third Principals Assembly Meeting Agenda
RCR Executive Director presented a proposed agenda for the third Principals Assembly meeting on January 24, 2024. Staff received feedback to update proposed agenda item 6. Operations Board Workplan on the Crisis Continuum of Care to include discussion of information about the Crisis Clinic Levy and potential for RCR involvement in a coordinating role.
 - a. Discussion of RCR City Council Appointments to Principals Assembly for 2024
The Board discussed potential changes in RCR City Council Appointments to the Principals Assembly for 2024.

- 7) Discussion of Readiness to Add New Principals
 - a. Draft Criteria for Readiness to Add New Principals
RCR Executive Director shared the draft criteria for readiness and received feedback from the Board.
 - b. Draft Assessment Tool for Potential Principals
RCR Executive Director shared the draft Assessment Tool for entities seeking Principal Membership and received feedback from the Board.
 - c. Discussion of Letter of Intent from City of Redmond
The Board discussed expanding the framework from service delivery standpoint and staffing, and the letter coming from the Executive Director and President of the Executive Board.
- 8) Draft 2024 RCR Agency Work Plan
Tabled for February regular meeting.
- 9) Executive Director Report
RCR Executive Director presented on the following topics: RCR governance bodies, hiring and staffing, initial results of Team Wellness Survey, radio air project, RADAR Navigator database Call Nature field update, Crisis Triage Facility, budget and grants, the legislative landscape, and an RCR mission moment. Staff answered questions from the Board.
- 10) Good of the Order
Stephanie Lucash shared that she will be presenting on public safety with a focus on RCR Agency and moderating a panel discussion scheduled for January 31, 2024 at the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance.
- 11) Adjournment
Board President Kurt Triplett adjourned the meeting at 12:02 pm.

Kurt Triplett, President

Attest:

Heather Lantz-Brazil, Secretary

REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE (RCR) AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Crisis Response (RCR) Executive Board

From: Michael Olson, RCR Board Treasurer/Kirkland Director of Finance & Administration
Elizabeth Adkisson, Kirkland Administrative Services Manager, Finance & Administration

Date: January 29, 2024

Subject: Resolution Amending Authorized Signatories for the RCR Agency

RECOMMENDATION:

The RCR Executive Board review and consider approval of Resolution R-2024-01 amending the authorized signers for the agency.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

On January 11, 2023, the Executive Board adopted Resolution R-2023-05, naming authorized signers for the agency.

Since that time, Elizabeth Adkisson, Administrative Service Manager, was hired in May 2023; and in December 2023, Beth Goldberg moved on from the City of Kirkland and Julie Underwood was selected as the Deputy City Manager.

Proposed Amendments: This resolution amends and supersedes Resolution R-2023-05, to remove Beth Goldberg and add Julie Underwood as City of Kirkland Deputy City Manager; and inserts Elizabeth Adkisson as the Administrative Services Manager.

Next Steps: Upon approval, the City of Kirkland Fiscal Agent will adjust the appropriate documentation on the RCR Banking Accounts.

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED

It is recommended that the Board approve Resolution R-2024-01 amending the authorized signers for the agency.

List of Attachments

1. Excerpt from the January 11, 2023, RCR Executive Board Meeting Packet re R-2023-05
2. PROPOSED Resolution R-2024-01 amending the authorized signers for the agency

REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE (RCR) AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

To: RCR Executive Board

From: Carly Joerger, Management Analyst, City of Kirkland

Date: January 6, 2023

Subject: Naming Authorized Signers for RCR Agency

RECOMMENDATION:

That the RCR Executive Board consider who shall be authorized to sign on behalf of the Regional Crisis Response (RCR) Agency and approve those authorized signers via Resolution R-2023-05.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

This item seeks Board approval for who may be an authorized signer on behalf of the RCR Agency. The attached Resolution listing the authorized signers is part of the required materials for the RCR Agency Treasurer to open a bank account for the agency. The bank also requires other forms of identification such as a Tax ID number and signed W9, which staff are in the process of obtaining. City of Kirkland, as the RCR Agency Fiscal Agent, recommends the Board name the City of Kirkland's authorized signers, in addition the Board President and Treasurer, as authorized signers for the RCR Agency for ease of operations. City of Kirkland's authorized signers include the City Manager, Deputy City Manager for Operations, Director of Finance and Administration, Deputy Director of Finance and Administration, and the new and vacant Administrative Services Manager position who will be RCR Agency's fiscal agent point of contact. These positions are listed in the attached resolution, in addition to the RCR Agency Board Chair.

Board Action Recommended

It is recommended that the Board adopt Resolution R-2023-05 naming authorized signers on behalf of the RCR Agency.

List of Attachments

Resolution R-2023-05 Naming Authorized Signers.

RESOLUTION R-2023-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE AGENCY NAMING AUTHORIZED SIGNERS FOR THE AGENCY.

WHEREAS, the Cities of Bothell, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, and Shoreline have formed the Regional Crisis Response (RCR) Agency by interlocal agreement (ILA) to provide consolidated and expanded mobile crisis response services to the five-city region; and

WHEREAS, naming authorized signers for the RCR Agency is an important formation step that will allow the agency to conduct its business; and

WHEREAS, there is ease of operations in naming authorized signers for the agency consistent with the authorized signers for the agency's fiscal agent, the City of Kirkland, in addition to the RCR Agency Board President.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Executive Board of the RCR Agency as follows:

Section 1. The RCR Agency Executive Board appoints the following individuals to be authorized signers for the RCR Agency:

- _____, RCR Executive Board President
- _____, RCR Executive Board Treasurer
- Kurt Triplett, City Manager, City of Kirkland
- Beth Goldberg, Deputy City Manager for Operations, City of Kirkland
- Michael Olson, Director of Finance and Administration, City of Kirkland
- Sri Krishnan, Deputy Director of Finance and Administration, City of Kirkland
- _____, Administrative Services Manager, City of Kirkland (to be filled)

Passed by majority vote of the RCR Agency Executive Board in open meeting this ____ day of _____, 2023.

Signed in authentication thereof this ____ day of _____, 2023.

_____, Chair

Attest:

_____, Secretary

RESOLUTION R-2024-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE AGENCY AMENDING THE AUTHORIZED SIGNERS FOR THE AGENCY

WHEREAS, the Cities of Bothell, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, and Shoreline have formed the Regional Crisis Response (RCR) Agency by interlocal agreement (ILA) to provide consolidated and expanded mobile crisis response services to the five-city region; and

WHEREAS, naming authorized signers for the RCR Agency is an important formation step that will allow the agency to conduct its business; and

WHEREAS, there is ease of operations in naming authorized signers for the agency consistent with the authorized signers for the agency's fiscal agent, the City of Kirkland, in addition to the RCR Agency Board President;

WHEREAS, the RCR Agency Board appointed individuals to be authorized signers for the RCR Agency on January 11, 2023, through Resolution R-2023-05; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to amend the authorized signers due to staffing changes at the City of Kirkland.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Executive Board of the RCR Agency as follows:

Section 1. The RCR Agency Executive Board amends and supercedes the listing of authorized signers for the RCR Agency approved through Resolution R-2023-05 and appoints the following individuals as authorized signers:

RCR Executive Board:
Kurt Triplett, President
Michael Olson, Treasurer

City of Kirkland (Fiscal Agent):
Kurt Triplett, City Manager
Julie Underwood, Deputy City Manager for Operations
Michael Olson, Director of Finance and Administration
Sri Krishnan, Deputy Director of Finance and Administration
Elizabeth Adkisson, Administrative Services Manager, Finance and Administration

Passed by majority vote of the RCR Agency Executive Board in open meeting this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Signed in authentication thereof this ____ day of _____, 2024.

Kurt Triplett, President

Attest:

Heather Lantz Brazil, Secretary

REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE (RCR) AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

To: RCR Executive Board

From: Michael Olson, RCR Board Treasurer/Kirkland Director of Finance & Administration
Elizabeth Adkisson, Kirkland Administrative Services Manager, Finance & Administration

Date: January 29, 2024

Subject: RCR Budget to Actuals Report (January through December 2023)

RECOMMENDATION:

The RCR Executive Board receive information about the 2023 Budget to Actuals for the period of January through December 2023; and provide feedback on the preparation of a draft reconciliation and reserve policy, based on the NORCOM example, for discussion in March 2024.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

On January 11, 2023, the Executive Board adopted the 2023-2024 RCR Biennial Budget, through R-2023-06. The adopted budget includes operational expenses for a 13 FTE program in an approximate amount of \$5.4M; and assumes over \$1.1M in grant revenue, as well as \$4.3M in member agency contributions.

On December 7, 2023, the Executive Board amended the 2023-2024 RCR Biennial Budget, through R-2023-16. This amendment captured new grant revenues received in 2023 (Association of Washington Cities-ART Grant Program).

2023 Budget to Actuals Report

The City of Kirkland Fiscal Agent support team has prepared the 2023 Budget to Actuals Report for the period of January through December 2023 (*Attachment 1*); this information is a compilation of revenue and expense information from multiple sources, including the City of Kirkland and the City of Bothell. It addresses both the actual expense and revenue transactions that have occurred during this timeframe from the multiple sources cited.

The report continues to reflect an expected ending fund balance of over \$600,000. Based on the uncertainty of grant revenues to be received in 2024, this number may increase to upwards of \$1 million.

Please note the following highlights of this budget to actuals report:

- **Operations:** RCR has successfully paid the City of Kirkland for all fiscal agent services through November 2023; and December 2023 will be processed shortly. Monthly invoices are now being sent billing to RCR for services rendered.
- **Grants:** Several grant revenues built into the 2023-2024 Budget have yet to be received directly by RCR, as contracts are yet to be finalized, specifically the MIDD and DOJ grants previously discussed.

- 2023 Ending Fund Balance and Reserves: The report includes a 2023 ending fund balance of \$724,241 and reserves fund balance of \$208,144; for a total amount of \$932,385.

Reconciliation Framework – Revisited

As discussed previously, the RCR Executive Board has several policy options to consider for the deployment of the estimated 2023-2024 ending fund balance (savings) and expressed a preference to create a rate stabilization fund. A draft policy will be brought forward for Board review and discussion in March 2024, to be based off of the NORCOM Revenue and Fund Balance Policies, as recommended (*Attachment 2*).

Next Steps:

The City of Kirkland Fiscal Agent Team will prepare a draft reconciliation and reserve policy based on the Executive Board's feedback and the NORCOM example, for review and discussion at the March 2024, Executive Board Meeting, and potential adoption at the April 2024 Executive Board Meeting.

In addition, the next quarterly Budget to Actual Reports to the RCR Executive Board, will be presented in May and include the activity through the First Quarter of 2024.

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED

1. It is recommended that the Board review the 2023 Budget to Actuals Report and identify any questions or additional information needed to proceed with the preparation of a draft reconciliation and reserve policy, based on the NORCOM example, for discussion in March 2024.

List of Attachments

1. 2023 Budget to Actuals (January – December 2023)
2. NORCOM Revenue & Fund Balance Policies

2023-2024 REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT - DECEMBER 2023

2023												2024	
BEGINNING FUND OPERATING BALANCE (w/START-UP) \$										-	\$ 724,241		
RESERVES \$										-	\$ 208,144		
TOTAL BEGINNING FUND BALANCE & RESERVES \$										-	\$ 932,385		
CURRENT YEAR REVENUE	START-UP				ONGOING OPERATIONS								
	Budget	Actuals	2023 Forecast	% of Budget	2023 Original Budget	2023 Revised Budget	2023 Actuals	2023 Forecast	Act. as % of Budget	2024 Original Budget	TOTAL '23-'24		
MIDD	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ 436,000	\$ 436,000	\$ 133,420	\$ 133,420	31%	\$ 436,000	\$ 1,574,840		
WASPC	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 69,839	\$ 69,839	87%	\$ -	\$ 299,680		
AWC (ART Grant Program)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ 70,500	\$ 70,500	\$ 203,372	\$ 200,500	288%	\$ -	\$ 544,875		
DOJ	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ 72,400	\$ 72,400	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ 72,400	\$ 217,200		
GRANTS/OTHER EXTERNAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ 658,900	\$ 658,900	\$ 406,632	\$ 403,759	62%	\$ 508,400	\$ 2,636,595		
PARTICIPATING AGENCIES	\$ 405,056	\$ 405,056	\$ 405,056	100%	\$ 1,797,707	\$ 1,797,707	\$ 1,797,707	\$ 1,797,707	100%	\$ 2,046,255	\$ 2,374,667		
TOTAL CURRENT YR REVENUES	\$ 405,056	\$ 405,056	\$ 405,056	100%	\$ 2,456,607	\$ 2,456,607	\$ 2,204,339	\$ 2,201,466	90%	\$ 2,554,655	\$ 5,011,263		
CURRENT YEAR EXPENDITURE	START-UP				ONGOING OPERATIONS								
	Budget	Actuals	2023 Forecast	% of Budget	2023 Original Budget	2023 Revised Budget	2023 Actuals	2023 Forecast	Act. as % of Budget	2024 Original Budget	TOTAL '23-'24		
Personnel	\$ 8,580	\$ 411	\$ 411	5%	\$ 2,020,933	\$ 2,020,933	\$ 1,234,022	\$ 1,079,740	61%	\$ 2,104,847	\$ 4,125,780		
Professional Services & Training	\$ 18,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 18,000	100%	\$ 49,400	\$ 49,400	\$ 34,000	\$ 88,200	69%	\$ 50,882	\$ 100,282		
Clothing & Equipment	\$ 41,400	\$ 1,904	\$ 1,904	5%	\$ 10,450	\$ 10,450	\$ 6,700	\$ 7,900	64%	\$ 10,764	\$ 21,214		
IT, Supplies, and Furniture	\$ 52,830	\$ 13,953	\$ 13,953	26%	\$ 155,745	\$ 155,745	\$ 178,895	\$ 153,841	115%	\$ 160,763	\$ 316,508		
Vehicles	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 100,000	100%	\$ 24,740	\$ 24,740	\$ 66,038	\$ 69,760	267%	\$ 25,482	\$ 50,222		
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	\$ 195,340	\$ 195,340	\$ 161,485	\$ 184,867	83%	\$ 201,917	\$ 397,257		
TOTAL CURRENT YR EXPENSES	\$ 220,810	\$ 19,768	\$ 134,268	61%	\$ 2,456,607	\$ 2,456,607	\$ 1,681,140	\$ 1,584,309	68%	\$ 2,554,655	\$ 5,011,263		
		Actuals	Forecast			Actuals	Forecast						
		YTD 12/23	YTD 2023			YTD 12/23	YTD 2023						
CURRENT YEAR BALANCE		\$ 201,042	\$ 86,542			\$ 523,199	\$ 617,158			\$ -			
ENDING FUND BALANCE		\$ 201,042	\$ 86,542			Combined YTD 2023	\$ 724,241	\$ 617,158			\$ 724,241		
RESERVES	\$ 184,246	\$ 184,246	\$ 184,246			\$ 23,898	\$ 23,898			\$ 208,144			
TOTAL ENDING FUND BALANCE & RESERVES	\$ -	\$ 385,288	\$ 270,788			\$ 547,097	\$ 641,056			\$ 932,385			

- Notes:**
- 1 Reserves are \$208,144 as of December 31, 2023.. This includes \$184,246 for Operating and Contingency Reserves and \$23,898 for Equipment Replacements.
 - 2 Participating Agency contributions for 2023 totaled \$405,056 for Start-Up and \$1,797,707 for Operations.
 - 3 Forecasted totals are approximate. Variances from actuals primarily due to staffing vacancies and pending purchases.
 - 4 WASPC grant ended June 30, 2023. Total expended = \$69,839.
 - 5 MIDD grant represents pre-April 2023 activity expended by City of Bothell.
 - 6 AWC grant of \$70,500 funded activity through June 30, 2023. The second grant 2023 total was \$132,872.41.
 - 7 DOJ grant administered through City of Shoreline anticipated to begin in 2024.
 - 8 Expenditures represents costs from January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023.
 - 9 Start-Up ending cash balance through December 2023 = \$201,042. \$100k earmarked for additional vehicle purchases.
 - 10 Operating cash balance as of December 2023 was \$523,199 (rnd).

Policy #: 05-003

Policy Name:

Revenue & Fund Balance Policies



Issued: 06/12/2009
 Last revised by: Name
 Revision Date: 6/22/2021
 Review Schedule: 3 years

POLICY APPLIES TO: () All Employees () Operations () Administration () Technology

I. PURPOSE

Adequate fund balance and reserve levels are a necessary component of NORCOM's overall financial management strategy and a key factor in the measurement of the agency's financial strength.

II. POLICY

- A. 1. An Operating Contingency Reserve and a Capital Equipment Replacement Fund will be maintained in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement Section 12(h).
- B. A Rate Stabilization Fund shall be established in order to identify, reserve and accumulate unexpended resources for use in mitigating the impact of future rate increases and assisting with the transition to higher rates.
- C. Additional reserve accounts may be created by the Governing Board to account for monies for future known expenditures, special projects, or other specific purposes.
- D. All reserve accounts will be presented in the annual budget

III. PROCEDURE

- 1.1** Operating Expense Reserve
 - 1.1.1** It is the intent of NORCOM that the estimate for general operating contingencies shall be based on the assumption that certain expenditures will become necessary which cannot be foreseen and planned in the budget because of the occurrence of some unusual or extraordinary event. The level of funding shall be determined by the Governing Board.
- 1.2** Equipment Replacement Reserve
 - 1.2.1** Unless directed by the Governing Board, NORCOM will maintain and fully fund the Capital Equipment Replacement Fund to minimize large increases in User Fees from year to year resulting from acquisition or replacement of capital, and to fund the timely replacement of aging technology, equipment and systems. Contributions will be based on estimated useful life and maintained on a per asset basis.
- 1.3** Rate Stabilization Fund
 - 1.3.1** Unless otherwise directed by the Governing Board the Rate Stabilization fund shall be established using \$800,000 of 2011 Estimated Ending Fund Balance. One time revenues,

new agency initial assessments/fees, Ending Fund Balance and other sources deemed appropriate by the Governing Board may be accumulated for future use.

- 1.3.2** The amount of reserves used each year shall be analyzed to determine the long-term effect on rates to avoid large rate increases or decreases in future years.
 - 1.3.3** Accumulated reserves shall not exceed 10% of current year Operating Fund Revenues.
 - 1.3.4** Funds shall accumulate from year to year until a Super Majority Vote of the Governing Board appropriates all or part of the available reserves.
 - 1.3.5** Identified funds shall be applied to overall budget (similar to outside revenues) to offset transition to higher rates, fund onetime expenditures, or other exigent circumstances.
- 1.4** All expenditures drawn from reserve accounts shall require prior Board approval unless previously authorized for expenditure in the annual budget.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the Finance Manager to monitor Fund Balance and reserve accounts in order to assure compliance with this policy.

NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
Judy Cayton, Human Resources Manager		
Katy Myers, Deputy Director of Administrative Services		
Roky Louie, Deputy Director of Operations		
William Hamilton, Executive Director		

REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE (RCR) AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

To: RCR Executive Board

From: Brook Buettner, Executive Director
Heather Lantz-Brazil, Administrative Assistant

Date: January 25, 2024

Subject: DISCUSSION OF CRITERIA FOR READINESS TO ADD NEW PRINCIPALS

RECOMMENDATION:

That the RCR Executive Board receive information and provide feedback about the draft Criteria for Readiness to Add New Principals, draft Assessment Tool for entities interested in Principalship, letter of Response to the City of Redmond.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

During the [October 18, 2023 meeting](#)¹ of the RCR Principals Assembly, a Principal representative raised a question about the potential of adding new Principal Members of the RCR Agency. Discussion included a desire to have a common approach to by RCR Principal elected officials or staff when receiving questions from other jurisdictions.

During the [November 2, 2023 meeting](#)² of the RCR Executive Board, the Board discussed readiness for the addition of new Principals and directed the Executive Director to create draft Readiness Criteria for discussion.

At the [November 6, 2023 Special meeting](#)³ of the Redmond City Council, a motion to approve AM No. 23-165: Approval of the Community Health Through THRIVE Staffing Authorization was approved as amended with “*a condition that the city send a letter of interest to join Regional Crisis Response (RCR) program and explore joining any other relevant nearby crisis response programs.*”⁴

¹ “RCR Principals Assembly Meeting Packet 2023-10-18,” *Regional Crisis Response Agency*, November 11, 2023, <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-managers-office/pdfs/agendas/rcr-principals-assembly-meeting-packet-2023-10-18.pdf>

² “RCR Executive Board Meeting Packet 2023-11-02,” *Regional Crisis Response Agency*, October 31, 2023, <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-managers-office/pdfs/agendas/rcr-executive-board-meeting-packet-2023-11-02.pdf>

³ “Special Meeting Notice and Agenda,” *City of Redmond*, November 3, 2023, <https://redmond.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=PA&ID=1121290&GUID=BA9976FC-C87E-4E00-8714-BDD53F5E5B42>

⁴ “SPC 23-083 - Meeting Minutes for November 6, 2023,” *City of Redmond*, November 21, 2023, <https://redmond.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12458796&GUID=F1FFF23E-492F-4900-830C-06AA7724D38C>

During the [December 7, 2023 meeting](#)⁵ of the RCR Executive Board, the Executive Director presented draft Criteria for Readiness to Add New Principals for feedback and guidance. Executive Board members provided feedback on the internal criteria for readiness and directed the Executive Director to draft a tool to assess the readiness of entities which seek to become Principals.

During the [January 4, 2023 meeting](#)⁶ of the RCR Executive Board, the Executive Board reviewed and provided feedback on the draft internal criteria for readiness; the draft tool to assess the readiness of entities which seek to become principals; and a draft letter of response to the City of Redmond Letter of Intent to explore joining RCR as a Principal.

During the [January 24, 2023 meeting](#)⁷ of the RCR Principals Assembly, the Principals Assembly was provided with an overview of the Executive Board process and received a presentation on the draft internal readiness criteria. Members of the Principals Assembly asked questions and provided feedback.

Readiness Criteria to Consider New Principals

The amended draft presented as Attachment 1 lists suggested criteria for readiness to consider the candidacy of additional RCR Principals. Criteria are divided into two categories: Operational Readiness, which describes RCR Agency operational capacity to absorb additional workload; and Administrative and Fiscal Readiness, which describes the ability of the City of Kirkland, as the RCR Fiscal and Administrative Agent, to meet the fiscal and administrative needs of an additional Principal member. RCR staff is working to create a dashboard with the criteria to show progress on these key organizational indicators.

Operational Readiness

Assessing Need for 24/7 Service Coverage

In the draft Readiness Criteria, 24/7 coverage remains a question- namely whether the RCR Executive Board would like some form of 24/7 coverage to be in place prior to considering the addition of new Principals. To launch this conversation, the RCR Executive Director seeks feedback from the board about what kind of information they would need to make this decision. Such information may include:

- Call for service data from the five RCR police agencies, broken down by time
- Clearing code data from each of the five RCR police agencies, broken down by time
- Call type data from the two 911 Dispatch Centers serving RCR cities, broken down by time
- Number of referrals received by the RCR Team from overnight shifts
- Cost modeling of different staffing models to achieve 24/7

Fiscal Readiness

Staff continues to explore cost modeling methodologies for understanding potential the costs of adding a RCR Principal, to include analysis of how marginal costs would scale; one-time and ongoing operational costs; potential changes to the contribution model from a strict per capita rate to a utilization-based rate or hybrid model; and how a new Principal might fit into a potential Rate

⁵ "RCR Executive Board Meeting Packet 2023-12-07", *Regional Crisis Response Agency*, December 4, 2023, <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-managers-office/pdfs/agendas/rcr-executive-board-meeting-packet-2023-12-07.pdf>

⁶ "RCR Executive Board Meeting Packet 2024-01-04", *Regional Crisis Response Agency*, January 2, 2024, <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-managers-office/pdfs/agendas/rcr-executive-board-meeting-packet-2024-01-04.pdf>

⁷ "RCR Principals Assembly Meeting Packet 2024-01-24", *Regional Crisis Response Agency*, January 22, 2024, <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-managers-office/pdfs/agendas/rcr-principals-assembly-meeting-packet-2024-01-24.pdf>

Stabilization structure. This work is ongoing and will be presented to the Executive Board for discussion at a future meeting.

Assessment of Entities Interested in Principalship

The draft presented as Attachment 2 lists suggested domains for assessment of entities interested in becoming RCR Principals. They broadly include:

1. Baseline ILA criteria for Principalship;
2. Demonstrated commitment to RCR Agency goals;
3. Demonstrated understanding of Agency services, and demonstrated willingness of stakeholders and public safety partners to engage in the work of the Agency; and
4. Fiscal readiness and ability to contribute on an ongoing basis

Letter of Intent from the City of Redmond

On January 2, 2024, the RCR Executive Director received a letter, presented here as Attachment 3, from City of Redmond Chief Operating Officer Malisa Files expressing “interest in joining the collaboration of North and East King County Cities Regional Crisis Response Agency.” A letter of response from RCR Executive Board President Kurt Triplet is included here as Attachment 4 for the Executive Board’s consideration.

Board Action Recommended

It is recommended that the board discuss and provide feedback on draft Readiness Criteria for considering the addition of new Principals to the RCR Agency including direction on evaluating the need for 24/7 coverage; the draft Assessment Tool; and a response to the City of Redmond letter of intent to explore membership in RCR. No formal action is recommended at this time.

List of Attachments

Att-1 Draft Readiness Criteria to Consider the Addition of New RCR Agency Principal Members

Att-2 Draft Assessment Tool for Entities Seeking to Become RCR Principals

Att-3 City of Redmond Letter of Intent

Att-4 Draft letter of response to the City of Redmond

REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE (RCR) AGENCY

DRAFT Readiness Criteria to Consider the Addition of New RCR Agency Principal Members

Suggested Operational Criteria

1. The Agency has operated for at least one year after operational go-live date of June 1, 2023. *No Principals in addition to the Formation Principals shall be admitted within the first year of the Agency's operations (ILA 14.d)*
2. RCR has a data collection and quality monitoring strategy in place which allows RCR staff to evaluate potential impact of additional Principals on operations and outcomes to ensure that existing Principals would *not experience any material reduction in services (ILA 14.b)*
3. Executive Director has communicated with all funders and can demonstrate that the addition of the new Principal would not impact RCR grants; lead to loss of revenue; *or cause pre-existing Principals to incur additional cost (ILA 14.b)*
4. Executive Director has undertaken an assessment process of the potential new Principal entity's readiness and compatibility
5. Team is staffed with no more than 10% vacancy rate and 90% of FTE Crisis Responders fully trained and on-boarded at time of decision
6. Supervisor and lead positions filled (potential staffing model changes to be discussed early 2024)
7. All components of the "Crisis Now" system (someone to call, someone to respond, somewhere to go) are in place for The RCR Region

Suggested Fiscal and Administrative Criteria

1. Budget and invoicing are sufficiently institutionalized that fiscal staff can reasonably assess the cost of services and potential fiscal impact of the addition of a Principal
2. Principal cost allocation methodology decided (per capita, utilization, hybrid)
3. Invoicing happening regularly and smoothly and all billing is up to date
4. Fiscal policies approved and adopted
5. Rate stabilization policy in place

Text from the RCR Inter-Local Agreement

SECTION 14. ADDITION OF NEW PRINCIPALS

- a. Additional Principals. A governmental entity meeting the qualifications of a Principal in Section 3.t and this Section may be admitted as an Agency Principal upon Supermajority Vote of the Executive Board as required under Section 7.g. In addition to meeting the conditions of Section 3.t, a city seeking to become a Principal must:

- i. Have a coterminous jurisdictional boundary with at least one then-current Principal;
 - ii. Accept the terms of this Agreement, any Agency Bylaws, and adopted policies and procedures; and
 - iii. Not have held Principal status with the Agency within the five years immediately preceding the date of application to become a Principal.
- b. Other Conditions for Additional Principals. As a condition of becoming a Principal, the Executive Board may require payment or other contributions or actions by the new Principal as the Executive Board may deem appropriate and may set such start date for service as it deems appropriate, it being the intention of this provision that the addition of new Principals shall not cause pre-existing Principals to incur additional cost or to experience any material reduction in services from the Agency.
- c. Addition of Non-City Principals. A non-city governmental entity otherwise meeting the requirements of Section 14.a. may be admitted as an Agency Principal on the terms and conditions acceptable to the parties and their respective legislative authorities.
- d. No Additional Principals in first year of Agency Operations. Notwithstanding the foregoing terms of this Section 14, no Principals in addition to the Formation Principals shall be admitted within the first year of the Agency's operations.

REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE (RCR) AGENCY

DRAFT Assessment Tool for Entities seeking Principal Membership in the Regional Crisis Response Agency

Assessment Domains

1. Entity meets baseline criteria established in the ILA:
 - a. *The entity is a general purpose municipal corporation formed under the laws of the State (3.t)*and
 - b. *Have a coterminous jurisdictional boundary with at least one then-current Principal;*
 - c. *Accept the terms of this Agreement, any Agency Bylaws, and adopted policies and procedures; and*
 - d. *Not have held Principal status with the Agency within the five years immediately preceding the date of application to become a Principal (14.a.i-iii)*
2. Demonstrated commitment to Agency Goals as defined in ILA Section 4
 - a. *Terms and conditions are acceptable to the parties and their respective legislative authorities (ILA 14.d)*
3. Demonstrated understanding of Agency Services as defined in ILA Section 5; demonstrated willingness of stakeholders and public safety partners to engage in the work
 - a. Executive Director has met with leadership from law enforcement, fire, city staff, 911 dispatch and other stakeholders from candidate entity
 - b. RCR Agency is represented in the policy goals, workplans and/ or other direction-setting documents of the entity, its public safety agencies, and other key stakeholders
4. Fiscal readiness and ability to contribute immediately and on an ongoing basis
 - a. City of Kirkland Administrative and Fiscal Agent staff have reviewed relevant budgetary and administrative documentation

Process and Decision Authority

1. At the direction of the Executive Board, the Executive Director, RCR staff, and fiscal and administrative agent staff will conduct a thorough assessment of readiness of any entity seeking Principal Membership and make recommendations to the Executive Board.
2. The Executive Board may approve the addition of a Principal by Supermajority Vote. *A governmental entity meeting the qualifications of a Principal in Section 3.t and this*

Section may be admitted as an Agency Principal upon Supermajority Vote of the Executive Board as required under Section 7.g. (ILA 14.a)

Relevant Text from the RCR Inter-Local Agreement

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.

- t. Principal. A "Principal" is a general purpose municipal corporation formed under the laws of the State which meets the requirements of Section 14, has accepted the terms of and is a party to this agreement and has paid its share of initial costs as may be required by the Executive Board as a condition to becoming a Principal. Principals shall receive services offered by the Agency according to such terms and conditions as may be established by the Executive Board. The Formation Principals are Principals.

SECTION 14. ADDITION OF NEW PRINCIPALS

- a. Additional Principals. A governmental entity meeting the qualifications of a Principal in Section 3.t and this Section may be admitted as an Agency Principal upon Supermajority Vote of the Executive Board as required under Section 7.g. In addition to meeting the conditions of Section 3.t, a city seeking to become a Principal must:
 - i. Have a coterminous jurisdictional boundary with at least one then-current Principal;
 - ii. Accept the terms of this Agreement, any Agency Bylaws, and adopted policies and procedures; and
 - iii. Not have held Principal status with the Agency within the five years immediately preceding the date of application to become a Principal.
- b. Other Conditions for Additional Principals. As a condition of becoming a Principal, the Executive Board may require payment or other contributions or actions by the new Principal as the Executive Board may deem appropriate and may set such start date for service as it deems appropriate, it being the intention of this provision that the addition of new Principals shall not cause pre-existing Principals to incur additional cost or to experience any material reduction in services from the Agency.
- c. Addition of Non-City Principals. A non-city governmental entity otherwise meeting the requirements of Section 14.a. may be admitted as an Agency Principal on the terms and conditions acceptable to the parties and their respective legislative authorities.
- d. No Additional Principals in first year of Agency Operations. Notwithstanding the foregoing terms of this Section 14, no Principals in addition to the Formation Principals shall be admitted within the first year of the Agency's operations.



December 20, 2023

Regional Crisis Response Agency
c/o Brook Buettner, Executive Director
11750 NE 118th Street
Kirkland, WA 98034

Dear Ms. Buettner,

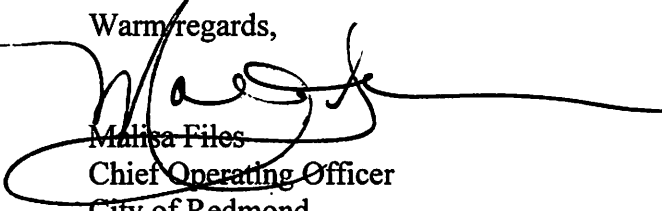
The City of Redmond is writing to express interest in joining the collaboration of North and East King County Cities Regional Crisis Response Agency (RCR). We understand that RCR is still considering expanding its program and is not yet open to new cities, however, as soon as the opportunity arises, Redmond staff would like to explore a potential partnership.

For several years, the City of Redmond has valued the inclusion of a mental health clinician, mobile integrated health staff, and homeless outreach staff as a part of our follow-up emergency response system. Building on that success, our Council recently adopted the creation of the Community Health and Wellness Program with the addition of three Community Care Coordinators focused on follow-up care.

At the heart of our Community Health and Wellness Program is a commitment to promoting the physical, mental, and overall wellbeing of individuals residing in our communities. By supporting connections to resources that provide wraparound services to clients in need, we strive to break down barriers and provide accessibility to long-term solutions. As RCR explores expanding to include additional neighboring cities, we believe that your mobile crisis response pairs well with the follow-up support that Redmond's Community Health and Wellness Program brings to the table.

Redmond understands that these issues do not adhere to city boundaries, and we would like to be a partner in a regional solution. We will be looking at expanding our programs in our next biennial budget and we hope that a solution is in partnership with RCR. We have also directed our staff to explore joining any other relevant crisis response programs. We look forward to our potential future collaboration.

Warm regards,



Malisa Files
Chief Operating Officer
City of Redmond

City Hall

PO Box 97010
15670 NE 85th Street
Redmond, WA
98073-9710

REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE AGENCY



City of Bothell

January 31, 2024



City of Redmond
City Hall
P.O. Box 97010
15670 NE 85th Street
Redmond, WA 98073-9710

Dear Ms. Files,

On behalf of the Executive Board, I would like to thank you for your interest in becoming a Principal of the Regional Crisis Response (RCR) Agency. We are proud of our work to transform the first response system in North and East King County, and interest from the City of Redmond, a valued and respected regional partner, is quite meaningful to us.



As you may know, the RCR Interlocal Agreement specifies that “the addition of new Principals shall not cause pre-existing Principals to incur additional cost or to experience any material reduction in services from the Agency.” (ILA 14.b) We appreciate your patience as we work to staff our new Agency and understand the true need and cost of services, to ensure that the addition of a Principal would not impact the services provided to community members in crisis.



Staff is also actively developing criteria to assess Agency readiness to consider potential additional Principals as well as an application process for interested entities. We recognize that the City of Redmond will be entering its budget process, and City of Kirkland fiscal agent staff are working to develop a planning level estimate of the potential cost of Principalship for a city of Redmond’s size to support your decision-making process.

We appreciate the City of Redmond’s commitment to alternative response and to a regional approach to behavioral health crisis. We will stay in close contact as this work matures. Our team looks forward to working to explore a potential future collaboration.

Sincerely,



Kurt Triplett, Executive Board Chair
Regional Crisis Response Agency

REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE (RCR) AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

To: RCR Executive Board

From: Brook Buettner, Executive Director
Heather Lantz-Brazil, Administrative Assistant

Date: January 26, 2024

Subject: DRAFT 2024 RCR AGENCY WORK PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

That the RCR Executive Board review and provide feedback on the draft 2024 RCR Agency Work Plan.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The draft 2024 RCR Agency Work Plan was included in the packet materials for the [January 4, 2024 RCR Executive Board meeting](#)¹. The agenda item to discuss the draft work plan was tabled for the February regular meeting.

RCR staff has developed the RCR Agency's 2024 work plan items with consideration of the Agency's goals and services as established and defined in the founding Interlocal Agreement. These work plan items were also informed by RCR's advisory bodies: Operations Board, Community Advisory Group and Principals Assembly.

The draft workplan included as Attachment 1 has been updated to include key administrative and fiscal process timelines, which are in process by City of Kirkland administrative and fiscal staff.

Board Action Recommended

It is recommended the Board provide feedback to staff to ensure that the work plan items reflect its priorities.

List of Attachments

Att-1 Draft RCR Agency Workplan

¹ "RCR Executive Board Meeting Packet 2024-01-04," *Regional Crisis Response Agency*, January 2, 2024, <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-managers-office/pdfs/agendas/rcr-executive-board-meeting-packet-2024-01-04.pdf>

REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE AGENCY						
2024 Annual Work Plan						
	WORK PLAN ITEM	2023 Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Governance Bodies	Executive Board	Approve amended biennial budget	Approve Workplan	Rate Stabilization Policy; 2025-2026 Budget development	Additional Fiscal Policies; Approve draft 2025-2026 Budget	Adopt 2025-2026 Budget
	Operations Board	Operations Board Meeting		Re-convene full Operations Board		Re-convene full Operations Board in person, renew Workplan
	Community Advisory Group	1:1 meetings with ED	Establish formal CAG norms, workplan			
Funders	MIDD	Quarterly report; annual questionnaire; draft 2023 Annual Report	2023 Annual Report; prepare 2024 MOU with King County and RCR; CORE uploads monthly, quarterly report	Explore King County Biennial Budget; CORE uploads monthly, quarterly report	CORE uploads monthly, quarterly report	CORE uploads monthly, quarterly report, annual questionnaire, draft 2024 Annual Report
	WASPC		Hiring WASPC funded positions	Annual Report		
	AWC	Monthly reports		Reapply for AWC Grant/EB approval		
	DOJ	Continual outreaching to DOJ	Administrative Transfer process	Create workplan (dependent)	Contract with CHS (dependent)	CHS begin services (dependent)
	SNO CO ARPA	2023 Program Report	Final Program Report			
Operations	Team Support / Development	Hiring final FTE position; organizational trauma training	Hiring WASPC funded positions; Team Support Activity	Defensive Tactics Training; Develop CISD Protocol	Team Support Activity	End of Year Team Support Activity
	Policies and Procedures	Purchasing Procedures - RCR Supplement to COK Fiscal Policy	CISD and auto-report policies, co-develop with team	Client Transport and other operational details- co-develop with team	Finalize P&P Manual	Ongoing review
	Measuring Success / Data Collection Strategy	Update data collection "how calls come in"				
Community	Community Relations	Community Visioning Process Product	RCR 2023 Annual Report; Logo development; Circulate Community Visioning Process Product	Anniversary Event		
	Crisis System Coordination		Legislative Session	Co-briefing RCR/Connections to all RCR First Response Agencies	Crisis Facility Opening	
Fiscal Agent	Reporting		2023 Fourth Quarter Report	2023 Financial Reporting; 2024 First Quarter Report	2024 Second Quarter Report	2024 Third Quarter Report
	Financial Policy		Present Financial Policy Options; Resolution updating authorized signatories	Financial Policy Action		
	Billing and Accounts Payable	Participant Agency Billings; COK Invoices to RCR	Participant Agency Billings; COK Invoices to RCR	Participant Agency Billings; COK Invoices to RCR	Participant Agency Billings; COK Invoices to RCR	Participant Agency Billings; COK Invoices to RCR
	Grant Management		Grant support; Grant reimbursements	Grant support; Grant reimbursements	Grant support; Grant reimbursements	Grant support; Grant reimbursements
	Budget			2025-2026 Budget timeline presented, draft 2025-2026 Budget developed	Draft 2025-2026 Budget/Public Hearing; approve draft 2025-2026 Budget (by Aug 31)	Member Agencies Adopt Budgets (by Dec 1); RCR Adopts 2025-2026 Budget (by Dec 15)

REGIONAL CRISIS RESPONSE (RCR) AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

To: RCR Executive Board

From: Brook Buettner, Executive Director

Date: January 26, 2024

Subject: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

RECOMMENDATION:

That the RCR Executive Board receive information from the Executive Director on several identified key areas, ask questions and provide feedback and direction.

Governance Bodies

Principals Assembly

The Principals Assembly met on January 24, 2024 and in addition to hearing a presentation from a member of the Community Advisory Group, received information, provide feedback and asked questions about RCR 2023 data and data management and collection strategy; the Community Visioning Process; the Operations Board Crisis Continuum of Care workplan; the budget process; staffing and coverage; and the Executive Board's process to define criteria for readiness to consider new RCR Agency Principals.

Operations Board

Strategy-specific subgroups of the Operations Board have been meeting on an ongoing basis since the initial Operations Board meeting on August 9, 2023. The full Operations Board reconvened on December 21, 2023, to revisit the five Strategic Work Lines identified in the Operations Board Workplan and heard from partners on each of the five strategic worklines. RCR staff continues to work with community partners on each of these strategic worklines:

1. 911-988 Connection
2. RCR Resource Deployment
3. First Responder drop off to the Crisis Facility
4. Crisis Facility-Evergreen ED transfer workflow
5. Transportation across the continuum

Community Advisory Group

The Community Advisory Group met January 23, 2024 to discuss the coming year, opportunities for engagement with the legislative session, and welcomed one of the RCR Crisis Responders who spoke about the Crisis Responder role and answered questions. A member of the Community Advisory Group shared her lived experience with police crisis response with the members of the Principals Assembly at their meeting on January 24, 2024.

Operations

Staffing

RCR Staff anticipate a start date for the tenth and final FTE of February 1, 2024, and at the direction of the RCR Executive Board have posted 3.0 FTE temporary positions funded under the WASPC grant on January 1, 2023, including two 0.5 FTE positions to improve flexibility in recruitment. RCR staff have multiple strong candidates for these temporary positions and hope to be ready to hire when the WASPC contract is signed.

An Organizational Trauma consultant who engaged with the team in November and December has completed a survey of team member wellness and level of burnout, and presented preliminary results to the RCR Executive Director and Clinical Supervisor. She will present final recommendations to the team in February and the recommendations will form the basis for team support strategies over the course of the coming year.

Crisis Facility Update

ConnectionsHealth staff continue to report an anticipated opening date of mid-2024 for the Kirkland Crisis Triage Facility.

RCR staff and RCR City Staff met with King County staff to discuss the King County Crisis Care Center Levy and how funds will be utilized in North King County. The RCR Executive Director is engaging with city staff on this work to provide subject-matter expertise regarding the crisis system.

Budget and Grants

Budget

Fiscal agent staff will present 2023 final budget to actual information to the RCR Executive Board at the February 2, 2024 meeting. The 2023 Budget will be adjusted further when the MIDD MOU is finalized, expected within Q1 of 2024.

MIDD

RCR staff and MIDD staff are actively working to complete and finalize the MIDD MOU and proposed budget, to include the additional \$300,000 allocated by King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski.

WASPC

At the [October 5, 2023 Executive Board meeting](#)¹, the Board authorized the RCR Executive Director to begin the recruitment process for 3.0 temporary Full-Time Equivalent Crisis Responders with hiring contingent on the award and acceptance of the WASPC MHRF grant funding through a finalized contract and approved budget amendment.

At WASPC's request, City of Kirkland Fiscal and Administrative Staff have drafted a proposed contract between Kirkland Police Department and the RCR Agency. This contract is still under review by City of Kirkland legal staff and will be submitted to WASPC for approval. Once approved, WASPC will enter into contract with Kirkland Police Department, the budget can be amended to reflect the anticipated revenue, and the WASPC temporary employees can be hired. These positions have been posted and are in recruitment in order to be ready to hire as soon as the contract is finalized.

¹ "RCR Executive Board Meeting Packet 2023-10-05," *Regional Crisis Response Agency*, October 2, 2023, <https://www.kirklandwa.gov/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/city-managers-office/pdfs/agendas/rcr-executive-board-meeting-packet-2023-10-05.pdf>

Association of Washington Cities

AWC is invoiced regularly for the cost of 2.0 FTE Crisis Responders. RCR Staff are providing monthly narrative reports and in the coming months will explore re-applying for the coming fiscal year.

Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance

The Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance has released the Connect and Protect Grant funding, previously awarded to the City of Shoreline/ RADAR Navigator Program, for the RCR Agency. RCR and City of Kirkland fiscal staff are in the process of applying for this single-source RFP as required by the Department of Justice.

Landscape Analysis

Relevant Bills at the State Legislature

Representatives Dan Bronoske and Carolyn Eslick co-sponsored [House Bill 2245](#)² to define behavioral health as a crucial part of the first response and public safety system, and direct training and certification in collaboration with University of Washington. This legislation was developed by the Co-Responder Outreach Alliance (CROA) and would be highly favorable for RCR operations, staffing, and potential future funding sources.

Initially, this proposed legislation included language that would improve liability protection for crisis responders operating in the public safety system. This portion of the proposed legislation was not included in the proposed bill. RCR Staff and colleagues across the state, along with the Executive Director of WCIA, met during December with state Health Care Authority (HCA) staff who were directed to draft legislation improving liability protection for mobile response, to advocate for the explicit inclusion of behavioral health crisis response deployed out of the first response/911 system. The legislation was introduced as [House Bill 2088](#),³ introduced by Representative Tina Orwall, and would improve liability protections for crisis outreach teams deployed through 988 and 911. WCIA legal staff has weighed in that this legislative language would improve the liability protection for the RCR Agency.

A final bill, [Senate Bill 6251](#)⁴ introduced by Senator Manka Dhingra, would improve coordination of crisis care across the continuum and would create an explicit role for the BH-ASOs in coordinating the full crisis continuum.

CRIS Update

Both HB 2088 and SB 6251 would help integrate the 988 system and the work of the [Washington Crisis Response Improvement Strategy Committees](#).⁵ The integration of the 988 mobile crisis response efforts with the public safety system and RCR's role in the evolution of the crisis system was brought to the attention of the RCR Executive Board during the July 6, 2023 RCR Executive Board meeting. At that time the Executive Director identified several potential strategies for improving the integration of public safety responses in statewide efforts to improve the crisis response system, including state-level legislative fixes. The issue brief developed for the RCR

² "HB 2245 – 2023-24: Establishing co-response services...", *Washington State Legislature*, January 29, 2024, <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?billnumber=2245&year=2023&initiative=False>

³ "HB 2088 – 2023-24: Extending liability protections for responders...", *Washington State Legislature*, January 29, 2024, <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2088&Initiative=false&Year=2023>

⁴ "SB 6251 – 2023-24: Coordinating regional behavioral crisis...", *Washington State Legislature*, January 29, 2024, <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=6251&Initiative=false&Year=2023>

⁵ "Crisis Response Improvement Strategy (CRIS) committees", *Washington State Health Care Authority*, January 29, 2024, <https://www.hca.wa.gov/about-hca/programs-and-initiatives/behavioral-health-and-recovery/crisis-response-improvement-strategy-cris-committees>

Executive Board by the Executive Director at that time is included here as Attachment 1. That brief identified several potential strategies to improve integration, which are as follows, listed with updates:

1. Executive Director engage as appropriate with CRIS or subcommittee work. *RCR is represented on the CRIS Lived Experience Sub-Committee by a member of the RCR Community Advisory Group*
2. Executive Director continue to actively work with King County to integrate the crisis system and the 911/ first response system locally and regionally. *This work is ongoing, including an upcoming strategy session with King County, Crisis Connections, and multiple other local providers and public safety behavioral health response programs to coordinate responses at the system level.*
3. Some RCR or RCR member city advocacy at the state level. High potential to partner with other cities. *Advocacy and support of potentially supportive bills (HB 2088 and SB6251) is ongoing, in partnership with CROA and WCIA.*

King County Sheriff's Office Co-Responder Program

In the [2023-2024 Adopted Biennial Budget](#),⁶ King County Council allocated \$1,693,853 to DS-024, "Behavioral Health Co-response Model Add funding to cover the cost of behavioral health co-response Program Manager plus program funding to support expansion of co-response and alternate response models throughout KCSO jurisdictions," offset in part in the budget by the MIDD Behavioral Health Tax Levy. This funding was identified in another part of the Budget Book as "Expanding RADAR, the north sound navigator program to other unincorporated areas of King County."

At the [January 10, 2024 meeting](#)⁷ of the King County Council Regional Policy Committee, King County Sheriff Patti Cole -Tindall announced that the KCSO Co-Responder Program would roll out summer 2024. RCR staff is in the process of gathering information about this roll-out and building collaborative relationships with program staff.

Board Action Recommended

No formal action is recommended at this time.

List of Attachments

Att-1 Issue Brief: 988 and the CRIS

⁶ "King County 2023-2024 Biennial Budget", *King County*, April 6, 2023, <https://kingcounty.gov/en/legacy/council/-/media/council/documents/2023/2023-2024-Adopted-Budget-Book.ashx?la=en&hash=105FAF64A44440EE7011A6FE8206501C>

⁷ "20240110 Regional Policy Committee Packet", *King County*, January 9, 2024, https://aqua.kingcounty.gov/council/agendas/_RPC/20240110-RPC-packet.pdf

988 and the CRIS

Issue Brief developed for the RCR Executive Board by Brook Buettner, 7/6/2023

[HB 1477 - 2021-22](#), **Implementing the national 988 system** to enhance and expand behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention services. Focused on the telecom needs and the mobile crisis outreach capacity needed to respond to people in Crisis. Also establishes the [Crisis Response Improvement Strategy \(CRIS\) Committee](#).

HB 1477 is primarily centered around suicide prevention but with loftier goals to develop a mobile behavioral health response system. Subsequent legislation has funded the expansion of Mobile Crisis Teams across the state and established standards.

This work appears to be on a trajectory to develop the behavioral health crisis system in a silo, without addressing or integrating with the 911/ first response system.

About 988

988 is an additional phone number to reach existing suicide prevention lines and does not replace any crisis call centers in Washington state. It is an addition to the state's network of crisis center providers. There are no changes to dispatch for Designated Crisis Responders and mobile crisis response teams or the functions of any other regional crisis service.

About the CRIS

The Crisis Response Improvement Strategy (CRIS) Committee and Steering Committee will develop recommendations to support implementation of the national 988 suicide prevention hotline and the statewide improvement of behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention services.

Several high-profile members have recently resigned from the committee protesting the failure of the CRIS and the state team to effectively integrate the first response/ 911 system.

Following that, the BH Crisis Response & First Responder Collaboration Workgroup was established, with three meetings and a small roster primarily representing lived experience with a very small number of people representing the 911 system.

University of Washington Analysis

A recently-released University of Washington Landscape Analysis called for in [SB 5644](#), strongly recommends integrating the First Response System.

“Calls to 911 for behavioral health will always occur, even with the potential for a robust, 988-driven alternative behavioral health crisis response system”

Opportunities

- Executive Director engage as appropriate with CRIS or subcommittee work.
- Executive Director continue to actively work with King County to integrate the crisis system and the 911/ first response system locally and regionally.
- Some RCR or RCR member city advocacy at the state level. High potential to partner with other cities.