



Best Practices in Co-Location With Emergency Personnel in Rural Communities

CCMU Presentation 2 | David Eric Lopez

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Welcome and Introductions

A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, horizontal bands in various shades of purple, ranging from a deep magenta to a light lavender. The bands flow across the middle of the slide, creating a sense of movement and depth.

David Eric Lopez

Program Manager

King's View Central Valley Suicide Prevention Hotline

Objectives

- » Provide background of Emergency Response Personnel in rural communities.
- » Learn how to establish strong collaborative working relationships with emergency responders in rural communities.
 - Review long held views of community members of emergency services
- » Understand how to create buy-in of the mental health services provided by crisis response teams.



Emergency Response in Rural Communities

» Law Enforcement

- Police officers consistently display great strength in dangerous situations.
- Elite group who serve their communities and are courageous enough to run towards danger to protect others.
- Limited personnel
 - » Elevates risks for officer safety.
 - » High degree of contact with individuals who are struggling with mental health issues.
 - Outside their scope of practice.

» Fire Departments

- Often first to respond in rural areas to many emergency calls for service.
 - » Both physical health and mental health calls.
 - » May double as transport to Emergency Departments.

» EMS

- Trained to respond to physical emergencies and stabilize individual.
- Limited amount of personnel in rural services.

Establishing Strong Collaborative Relationships

» Training and education of emergency personnel

- Mental health
- Mental health crises
- The lens through which a mental health professional views the situation
- **Creating value for the departments you serve**
- How does the program and the service you provide help those in need in the community?

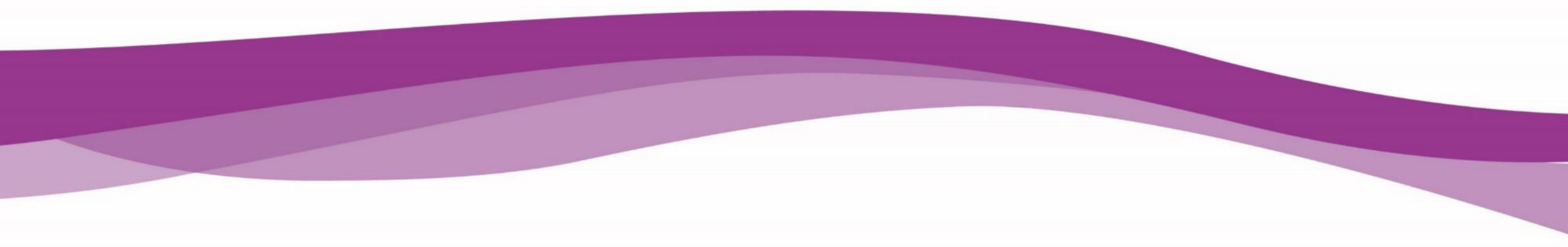
» Attending law enforcement briefings (Staff Meetings)



Establishing Strong Collaborative Relationships (cont.)

- » **Being a sounding board for emergency personnel**
 - “Watercooler” moments allow for debriefing of crisis situations.
- » **Embedding the service with emergency response system**
 - Identifying calls for service where mental health personnel can help.
- » **Alignment of service goals**
 - Creating a clear understanding of the objectives of the programs to emergency personnel in the rural communities.
- » **Demystifying mental health**
 - Normalizing the impact of emergency response work and the vicarious trauma associated with this work.

Workshop Discussion

- » Open discussion with workgroup and presenters
 - » Answer Questions
 - » Closing Statements
- 



Questions

Presenter Information

David Lopez, MFT

Program Director

Central Valley Suicide Prevention

dlopez@kingsview.org

Appreciation!

Thank you