



**LAWRENCEVILLE**  
BICENTENNIAL

1821-2021

Community Response Program  
Chuck Warbington, City Manager  
08/11/2021

LAWRENCEVILLE, GEORGIA

# Snapshot of the City of Lawrenceville

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Oldest City in metro Atlanta – Chartered in 1821
- 2020 Census Pop. is 30,000 (*However, just under 100,000 population during the day*)
- Home to Georgia Gwinnett College, Northside Hospital, Gwinnett County Government, View Point Health, and Summit Ridge Mental Health Center
- County Seat of Gwinnett County (*just under 1M residents*)
- General Fund Budget of \$41M (FY2023)
  - 300 City employees
- Police Department Budget of \$13M (FY2023)
  - 80 Sworn Police Officers (2.7/1000 residents)
  - 2021 – 85,000 police calls for service of which 19,000 were crime related calls.







**200**  
LAWRENCEVILLE, GEORGIA  
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1821-2021









# Law Enforcement in Today's World





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## Police act as:

Caretakers

Emergency Medical

Children Services

Social Workers

Arbiters

Law Enforcers



# ROLE OF MENTAL ILLNESS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT ENCOUNTERS

SOURCE: TREATMENT ADVOCACY CENTER

**EST. 7.9 MILLION** AMERICAN ADULTS WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS

**1 IN 4** OF ALL FATAL POLICE ENCOUNTERS

**1 IN 5** OF ALL JAIL OR PRISON INMATES

**1 IN 10** OF ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSES



# City of Lawrenceville

## Emotionally Disturbed Person Service Calls

- Since 2018 – 50% increase
- 2020-2021 – 25% increase



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Recognizing the growing trend in *emotionally disturbed person service calls*, in early 2020, the Police Department was tasked to research the Co-Responder program to specifically address this issue.





# What is a Co-Responder Program?

Nationally, a co-responder program may look different across various jurisdictions, but central to the program model is that a *specially trained officer and a mental health crisis worker respond together to address mental health calls.*

Research suggests that when Police Departments *effectively implement* a Co-Responder model calls for *service, incarcerations, and recidivism are significantly reduced.*

The Lawrenceville “Co-Responder” program was developed, funded and implemented in 18 months partnering with a local mental health center to provide behavioral health clinicians. The clinicians are onboarded, trained, and credentialed clinicians through View Point Health.



# Why is Lawrenceville Co-Responder Program Unique

The term Co-response historically refers to a system where mental health clinicians respond to calls for service that involve people who are suffering from mental illness.

The **Lawrenceville Community Response Team** responds to individuals in crisis and the City defines crisis very broadly.





# “Crisis” can take many forms



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- Family crisis
- Housing Crisis
- Emotional Crisis
- Traumatic Incidents (PTSD)
- Health Crisis
- Natural Disaster
- Community Violence
- Employment Crisis
- Pandemic
- Personal Crisis





# City of Lawrenceville Police Co-Responder Program

## The Structure

Within the Community Engagement Division of the Lawrenceville Police Department, the program began July 1, 2021 with two (2) behavioral health clinicians embedded in the police department to be dispatched with officers on “crisis” related calls and to assist individuals in obtaining the necessary services.

The 2 clinicians are scheduled 7 days a week with overlapping on-duty hours providing support to the Lawrenceville Police Department

The two main duties are around intensive response during a crisis and helping individuals transition immediately from a crisis into ongoing and needed services;

\$60,000 per clinician for a total of \$120,000 per year – (initial investment with ARPA funds).



# 2021 RESULTS (6 months)

	CRT	Patrol
Crisis Calls	263	2595
Crisis Arrests	4	317
Arrest Rate	1%	12%
Participants	93	N/A

\*Note: The City averages 4.5% arrests for all crime related service calls

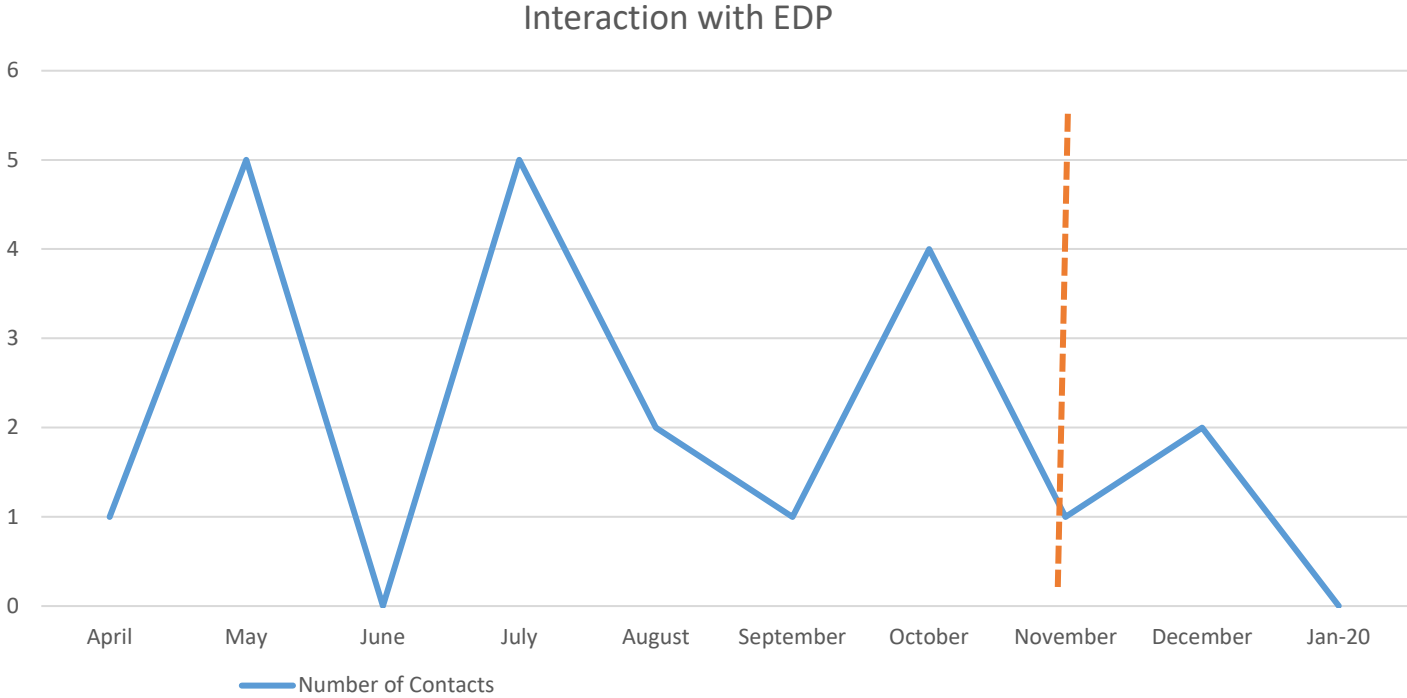




# Participant DB

Diagnosis: Schizophrenia and SA Disorder

CFS: 16 pre CRT, 3 post CRT

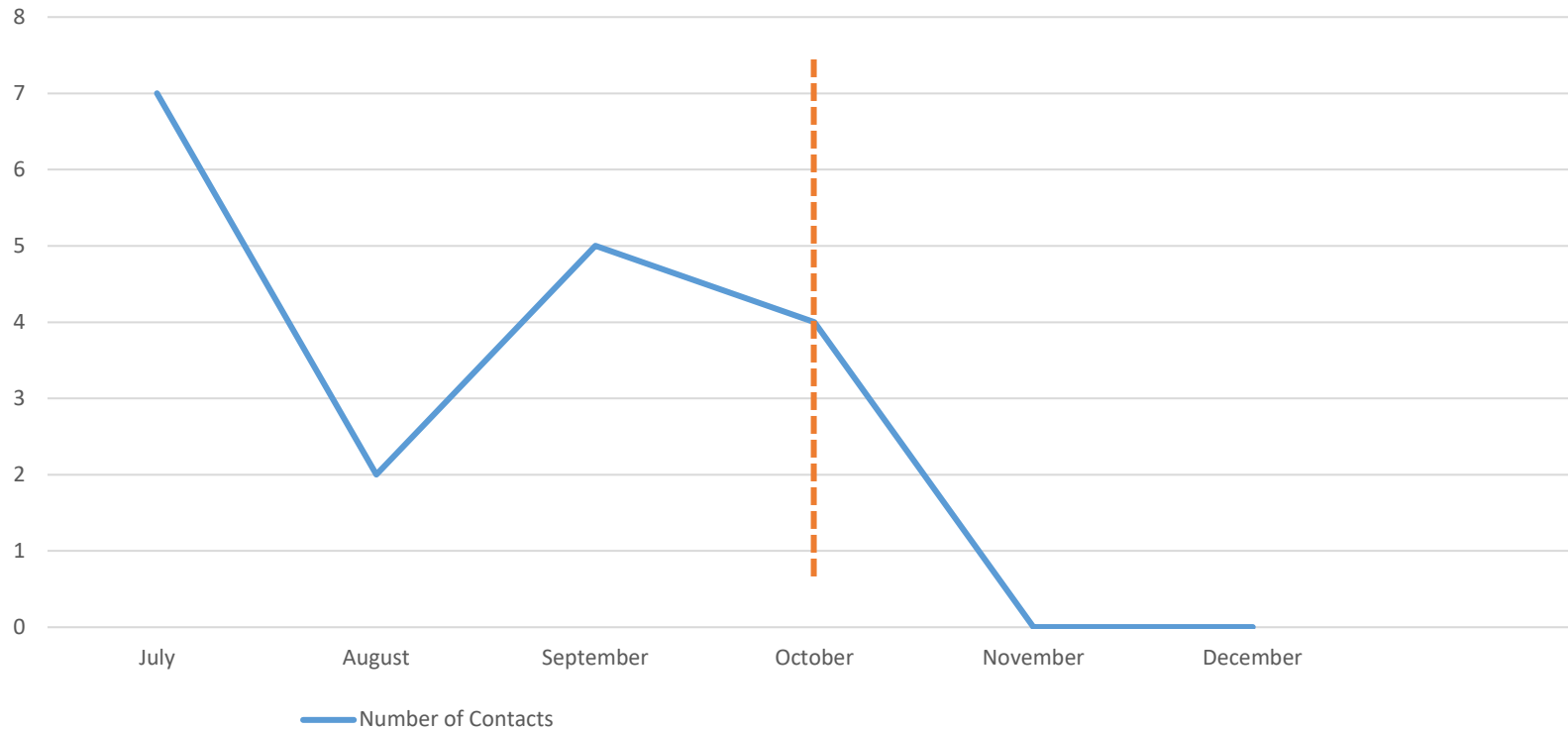


# Participant AS

Diagnosis: Schizophrenia and SA Disorder

CFS: 15 pre CRT, 0 post CRT

Interaction with EDP

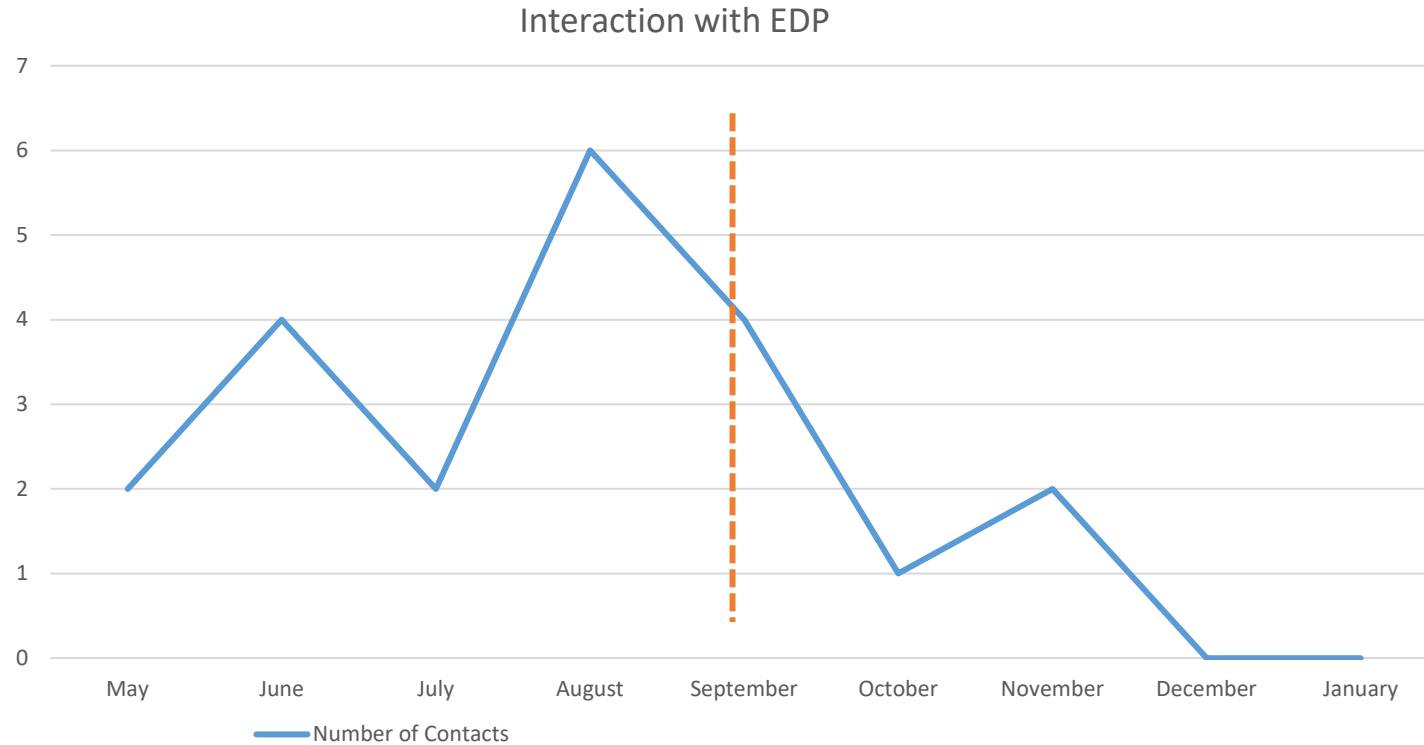




# Participant CW

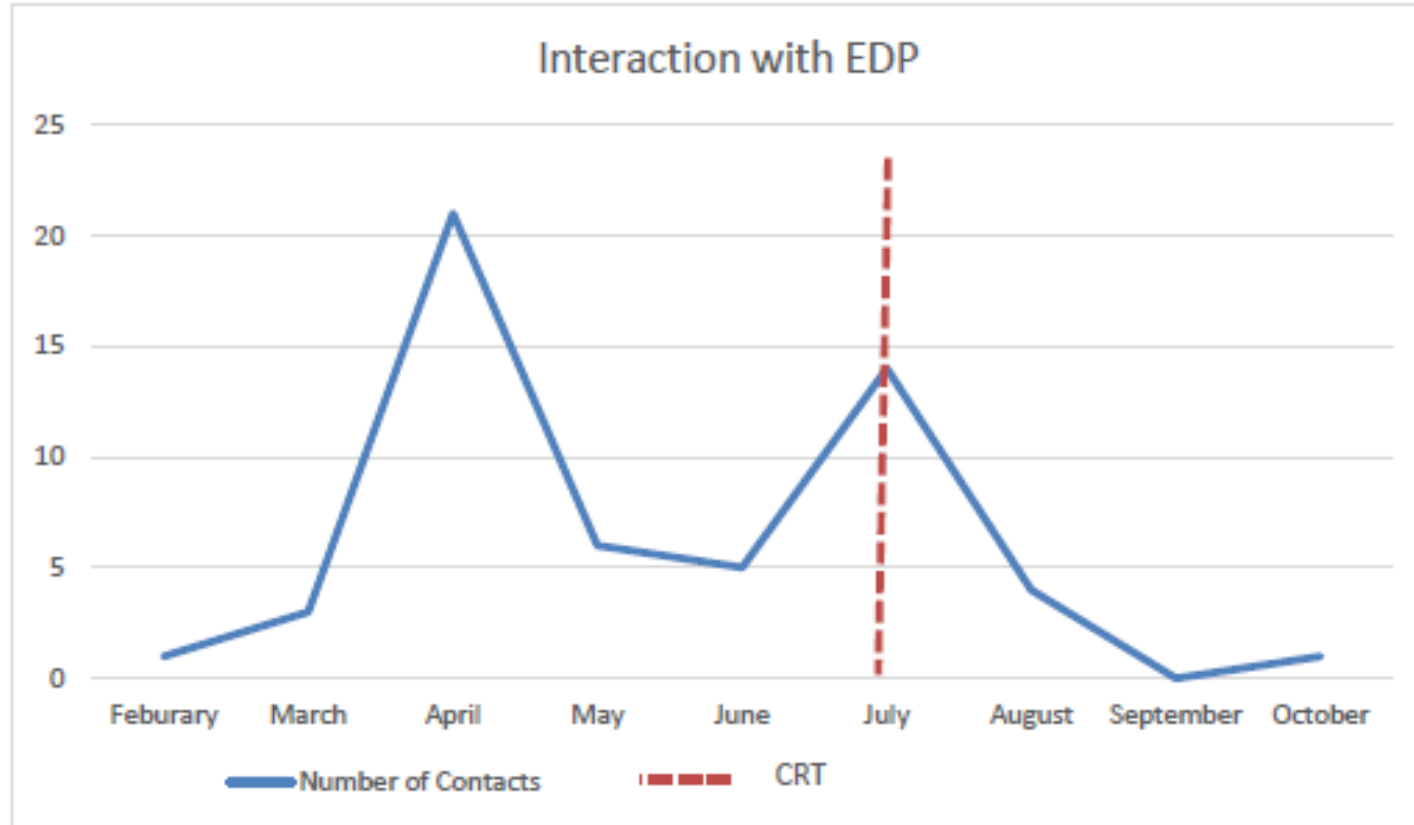
Diagnosis: Schizophrenia and SA Disorder

CFS: 24 pre CRT, 6 post CRT



# Participant MH

Diagnosis: Bi-Polar and TBI  
CFS: 36 pre CRT, 19 post CRT



# City of Lawrenceville Police Co-Responder Program FY2023 Budget Request

Due to early success of the program, the FY 2023 Budget request to Mayor and Council has a request for:

- 1 additional Community Engagement Police Officer (sworn)
- 1 additional Behavioral Health Clinician





# QUESTIONS?



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GEORGIA



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