



LA CROSSE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
LEAD. PARTNER. PROTECT.

September 29, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

The La Crosse Police Department has a long-standing partnership with Tellurian Behavioral Health and La Crosse County Human Services through the La Crosse CARE Center which has provided community members in crisis a safe place to stabilize while surrounded by their resource providers and support. The successful partnership has decreased the number of commitments, while providing a significantly more effective alternative to hospitalization for consumers. As we look ahead to how we can better provide services to our community, a 23-hour crisis stabilization center is an opportunity to evolve, collaborate and enhance services to those in need.

The La Crosse Police Department Community Resource Unit (CRU), which houses our Co-Response teams, collaborates with local mental health resources and agencies with the goal to provide wraparound services to community members experiencing crisis as well as follow-up connections. Through this collaboration we have found there is a need for a short-term stabilization facility which will better address consumers who may not need a multiple day stabilization, but do not have a safe environment to effectively safety plan, stabilize and connect with the right resources to assist them during and after crisis. This results in consumers having unnecessary hospital admittance or continued contacts with law enforcement, ultimately prolonging the consumer's crisis.

The 23-hour stabilization center is a way to provide a safe place for consumers who are struggling with a mental health crisis and who are seeking voluntary treatment for needed psychiatric stability, who currently have no other appropriate options. The Crisis Stabilization Center provides support and supervision to consumers, with the goal to return the individuals to their home surroundings as soon as stabilization occurs. This allows the consumers to receive immediate assistance from a mental health professional in conjunction with staying connected to their community supports. After stabilization, staff provides necessary follow-up care to ensure the consumer is connected with appropriate resources. This collaborative approach lends itself to a more positive outcome for the consumer.

Our community would significantly benefit from a Crisis Stabilization Center. As a police department we recognize the importance of how addressing mental health needs at the time of the crisis can be vital to effectively serving the consumer in need. We welcome the opportunity to continue our partnership with Tellurium and fully support a Crisis Stabilization Center in La Crosse.

Sincerely,

Shawn P. Kudron
Chief of Police