



### Mobile Crisis Team

#### Essential Service Elements FOR MOBILE CRISIS TEAMS

- ❑ Responds to the person in crisis at any community-based location
- ❑ Conduct crisis triage, screening, and safety assessments
- ❑ Provide de-escalating and/or stabilizing supports to mitigate the crisis
- ❑ Provide access to recovery supports
- ❑ Provide referrals, care coordination, and linkage to care with community-based stabilization supports
- ❑ Initiate emergency rescue in cases of imminent safety concerns (e.g., overdose response, EMS)
- ❑ Coordinate or provide transportation for the individual to facilitate crisis stabilization
- ❑ Provide in-person, telephonic, or virtual follow-up

#### Other Preferred Practice Elements FOR MOBILE CRISIS TEAMS

- ❑ Available on-demand, 24/7/365
- ❑ Teams respond in pairs
- ❑ Incorporate peer support specialists
- ❑ Community-based and not restricted to supervised settings

## An Overview of Mobile Crisis and Outreach Services

Mobile Crisis Teams (MCTs) provide an on-demand, rapid, mobile, in-person response that includes a licensed or credentialed clinician participating in a clinical assessment of an individual experiencing a behavioral health crisis. MCT services must be:

- On-demand and rapid
- Mobile
- In-Person (at least one team member)
- Include a licensed or credentialed behavioral health provider

Non-crisis mobile response or outreach teams support individual care needs including behavioral health, physical care, housing, benefits, education, and employment. These teams aim to promote prevention, wellness, recovery, self-advocacy, development of natural supports, and maintenance of community living skills.

SAMHSA's 2025 National Guidelines updated the continuum of crisis and non-crisis mobile response.

**Behavioral Health Practitioner-Only:** at least one licensed or credentialed behavioral health practitioner; may include unlicensed or uncredentialed behavioral health practitioners and/or peer support providers. *Considered the best practice model by SAMHSA.*

**Co-Response:** generally pair specially trained (e.g., crisis-intervention trained) law enforcement officers or other public health first responders with behavioral health practitioners.

**Mobile Response and Stabilization Services:** intensive, time-limited crisis stabilization services provided by behavioral health practitioner-only teams to support children, youth, and their families/caregivers. The more robust and longitudinal stabilization service is the key distinction between MRSS and the other two MCT models.

## Mobile Crisis and Outreach in Alaska

Many communities in Alaska are using an additional kind of mobile response not identified in SAMHSA's 2025 National Guidelines- mobile integrated health teams (MIH). MIH teams comprise of EMS and/or paramedics to provide critical, community-based services for Alaskan's with and without behavioral health needs.

### What's Next?

Ongoing focused work and partnerships are in process to:

- Enhance the financial sustainability of mobile response teams.
- Understand potential changes to the mobile response landscape if Alaska is accepted into the Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) demonstration project.

Crisis Now provides a framework to develop *well-coordinated systems* of behavioral health care- not standalone services. Partners are working across the state to ensure mobile response teams are integrated into the behavioral health continuum of care.