

REPORT FROM

OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Date: May 14, 2024

CAO File No. 0220-06216-0000
Council File No. 23-0056
Council District: Citywide

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer



Subject: **REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE SMART & DART PROGRAMS (C.F.23-0056)**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Safety Committee receive and file this report inasmuch as the report is informational in nature.

SUMMARY

This report provides information responsive to C.F. 23-0056.

BACKGROUND

On January 17, 2023, Motion (Blumenfield, Harris-Dawson – Rodriguez, CF 22-0037), instructed the CAO to work with various partners to:

- Report on the volume of mental health and domestic violence calls and incidents that occur annually within the city, as well as the capacity and response times that the current Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU) and Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) resources can deploy. The report should include the history of growth since its origination and outline any shortfall in resources that prevents the department's ability to deploy MEU and DART teams to all qualifying incidents.
- Report back with a budget proposal for expansion of the MEU and DART, which should include the personnel, financial resources, and deployment procedures needed to make the programs more widely available in response to mental health emergencies.

FINDINGS

LAPD Board of Police Commissioner Report

This office reviewed a March 21, 2023 Board of Police Commissioners report entitled UPDATE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S SYSTEMWIDE MENTAL ASSESSMENT RESPONSE TEAM AND DOMESTIC ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM PROGRAMS (Board Report) (BPC# 23-055) (Attachment 1). The Board Report has significantly responsive information relating to the history and context of the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) & Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Team (SMART) programs, as well as on response times, staffing models, staffing capacities and costs, and discussion which provides useful context.

DART & SMART Response Times

The Board Report covered current SMART and DART response times, and found that the LAPD currently does not have a method for tracking response times for their units, given that these programs were never intended to replace patrol assets, but rather to supplement and support them. As it relates to the SMART program, the OIG was advised that its response times could range anywhere from 15 to 90 minutes, based on the availability of SMART Units as well as traffic congestion. There was further discussion on how this information may be tracked in the future, and response times to Citywide Mental Health and Domestic Violence 9-1-1 calls were provided. More details can be found in attachment 1.

Capacity of SMART/DART Teams

The report contains data accounting for the number of calls that such teams are currently receiving, and acknowledges that, at times, SMART Units were unable to respond to all qualifying incidents, as the units were already handling other incidents when those additional calls were generated. Further detail can be found in Attachment 1, a document generated by LAPD and provided in response to inquiry by this office.

Additional Information

This office determined that to be fully responsive to motion 23-0056, additional information should be requested from LAPD, including:

- The volume of mental health and domestic violence calls and incidents that occur annually within the city for the years 2018-2023
- Additional cost and staffing information for SMART & DART teams:
 - How many LAPD officers and Sergeants are on each SMART team?
 - How many SMART & DART teams are currently fully staffed/does the group have vacancies?
 - Costs for expansion to the levels recommended in the Board Report
- Call outcome data for SMART, DART teams and traditional LAPD response:
 - Percentage of deployments that result in handcuffing, citation, arrest or use of force
 - Percentage of deployments where issues are resolved in the field
 - Percentage of deployments where a connection to a service provider is made
- Additional information on training programs for SMART, DART teams and traditional LAPD response:
 - Additional information on the level and types of training that SMART, DART & traditional LAPD officers receive

Such information was provided via an additional document from LAPD entitled Fact Sheet - Alternative Response Information. Note: this office provided minor edits to this document to update salary cost estimates to current contract levels.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Approval of the recommendation in this report will have no impact on the General Fund, as the report is provided for informational purposes only. The cost to expand the Police Department's MEU SMART program from 12 to 24 Teams would require funding in the amount of \$3,371,958, consisting of \$2,176,866 in direct salary costs and \$1,195,092 in related costs. The cost to expand the Department's DART program as described in Attachment 2 would require funding in the amount of \$8,288,251 consisting of \$2,539,677 in direct salary costs, \$1,394,274 in related costs and \$4,354,300 in DART contractor costs. Should consideration be given to adding resources to these programs, offsetting revenues, reductions to appropriations or other funding sources would need to be identified.

FINANCIAL POLICIES STATEMENT

The CAO reports that the recommendations in this report are consistent with the City's Financial Policies in that current operations will be funded by current appropriations.

MWS:MCB:AEH:HMR:17240010H

Attachments

1. UPDATE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S SYSTEMWIDE MENTAL ASSESSMENT RESPONSE TEAM AND DOMESTIC ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM PROGRAMS (Board Report) (BPC# 23-055)
2. LAPD Fact Sheet - Alternative Response Information

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

March 21, 2023
1.0

BPC# 23-055

TO: The Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Inspector General, Police Commission

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S SYSTEMWIDE MENTAL ASSESSMENT RESPONSE TEAM AND DOMESTIC ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDED ACTION

REVIEW and APPROVE the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG's) Update on the Department's Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Team and Domestic Abuse Response Team Programs.

DISCUSSION

In relation to Los Angeles City Council File No. 23-0056, which contemplates the expansion of resources available to the Los Angeles Police Department's (LAPD's or Department's) Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU) – including the Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Team (SMART) program – as well as its Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) program, the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners (BOPC or Commission) requested that the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) provide some background information and an update about each program. The Commission also requested recent statistical data related to volumes of radio calls and response times for Mental Health-Related (MHR) and Domestic Violence-Related (DVR) incidents.

I am available to provide any further information the Commission may require.



MARK P. SMITH
Inspector General
Police Commission

Attachment

LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION

Update on the Department's Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Team and Domestic Abuse Response Team Programs



Conducted by the

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

MARK P. SMITH
Inspector General

March 21, 2023

**UPDATE ON THE DEPARTMENT’S SYSTEMWIDE MENTAL ASSESSMENT
RESPONSE TEAM AND DOMESTIC ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM PROGRAMS**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Team (SMART) program pairs an LAPD police officer that is assigned to the Department’s Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU) with a Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) clinician and was designed to facilitate effective engagements with persons experiencing a mental health crisis and to connect those persons to appropriate services. The Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) program pairs an LAPD police officer with a domestic violence advocate. DART units respond to incidents of reported domestic violence with the goal of providing education, resources, and follow-up services to those who have been affected by such violence. Both programs rely on patrol units to ensure that a scene is relatively safe prior to approach or engagement by SMART or DART personnel.

With regard to patrol response times, the OIG was advised by LAPD’s Communications Division that Mental Health-Related (MHR) and Domestic Violence-Related (DVR) incidents may be dispatched as either Low Priority, Code 2 (urgent but not life threatening), or Code 3 (emergency, with vehicle emergency lights and siren activated) calls – based on the information that a caller has provided to the Radio Traffic Officer (911 dispatcher). The Department tracks statistical data related to patrol response times, which are provided by Compstat Division. The tables below provide citywide median response times for the five years from 2018 through 2022 for MHR and DVR calls.

Citywide Mental Health-Related Calls Median Citizen Response Time in Minutes			
Year	Code 3	Code 2	Low Priority Call
2022	7.7	22.4	40.0
2021	7.2	20.2	40.6
2020	7.2	18.6	34.2
2019	6.9	17.8	34.3
2018	6.9	18.0	36.8

Citywide Domestic Violence-Related Calls Median Citizen Response Time in Minutes			
Year	Code 3	Code 2	Low Priority Call
2022	7.4	27.0	69.8
2021	7.2	24.3	57.4
2020	7.0	22.4	59.5
2019	7.0	20.4	50.7
2018	7.0	21.0	57.4

Note: “Median Citizen Response Time in Minutes” refers to the time from the call creation within the dispatch system to the time the first patrol unit arrived and broadcast a Code 6 – indicating that they were on scene.

Radio calls accompanied by a Code 3 designation are emergency calls, for which a field unit is required to respond in a manner that enables them to reach the scene as quickly as possible while remaining safe.

The responding unit's emergency lights and siren shall be used whenever it is necessary to disregard "the rules of the road" provision in the California Vehicle Code. An emergency exists when one or more of the following elements are present: a serious public hazard; an immediate pursuit; the preservation of life; a serious crime in progress; the prevention of a serious crime; an officer requests another unit to respond Code 3. A Code 2 designation is for an urgent call, but one that is not life threatening. For Code 2 calls, the responding unit's emergency lights and siren shall not be used, and all California vehicle codes shall be obeyed. A low priority call is any call broadcast as a report or investigation that is not designated Code 2 or Code 3. In examining the 5-year average for both MHR and DVR calls, 21 percent of them were dispatched as Code 3 incidents, 77 percent as Code 2 incidents, and the remaining 2 percent as low priority incidents.

Management personnel from both SMART and DART advised the OIG that they currently have no method for tracking response times for their units, given that these programs were never intended to replace patrol assets, but rather to supplement and support them. As it relates to the MEU, the OIG was advised that its response times could range anywhere from 15 to 90 minutes, based on the availability of SMART Units as well as traffic congestion. The OIG discussed with the MEU the matter of recording SMART response times – especially in light of the MEU's desired expansion (discussed further below) – in an effort to determine whether/how much response times improve as more SMART Units are created. The MEU was agreeable to the recommendation and is currently seeking methods to effectively capture this data point. As it relates to DART units, tracking their response times may potentially yield some valuable information that can help identify inefficiencies and ensure that these critical units are able to go where they are needed as quickly as possible.

The remainder of this report will provide details about the SMART program first, followed by the DART program, along with statistical data for the last five years covering 2018 through 2022.

II. MENTAL EVALUATION UNIT

The Department's MEU has been in existence for over four decades. Its primary role is to assist field officers with MHR calls for service. Currently, the MEU is composed of subunits including the MEU Training Unit, Triage Desk, Case Assessment Management Program (CAMP), and SMART.

The Triage Desk is a 24-hour/7-day-a-week resource available to Department personnel. Triage Desk personnel record all Department contacts with persons experiencing a mental health crisis by completing a Mental Evaluation Incident Report. These reports are generally kept confidential in order to ensure the privacy of the individuals contacted.

When called on by field personnel, the Triage Desk also advises officers of any prior contacts with an individual who may be experiencing a mental health crisis or is otherwise mentally ill. Additionally, if the Triage Desk determines that a person has had repeated MHR contacts with police or has demonstrated high-risk behaviors, they will notify CAMP in order to initiate more intensive case management. CAMP is an investigative follow-up team which consists of Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) clinicians and MEU officers. CAMP links people with mental illness to mental health resources, with the goal of mitigating risk and the possibility of future violent contacts with the community and first responders.

In 1993, Los Angeles was one of the first cities to establish a two-person police/mental health team, which is known today as SMART. This program is co-supported by the LACDMH. A SMART Unit consists of a plain-clothes police officer and an LACDMH clinician. In the past, a patrol unit would respond to a radio call first and then request a SMART Unit if/when applicable. In January 2021, however, this aspect of LAPD's response to radio calls was modified to a "co-responder model" in which a SMART Unit is dispatched along with a patrol unit for MHR calls that include one or more of the following criteria:

- *The subject is violent*
- *The subject is armed, and the public is at risk*
- *A welfare check is called for*
- *The subject has possibly committed a criminal act due to mental illness*
- *The subject's behavior is high-risk*
- *There is a critical incident in which SMART may assist with de-escalation*

SMART operates on a 24/7 schedule, and there are currently 11 to 14 SMART Units available per day. The majority of SMART Units are deployed during the Mid-day shift, which runs from 1000 to 2000 hours, and the PM shift, which runs from 1530 to 0130 hours. This deployment is based on historical data showing that a heavier volume of MHR radio calls occur between these hours. LACDMH clinicians are not deployed from the hours of 0130 to 0600; as a result, a unit consisting of two MEU officers are dispatched between these hours.

After roll call at the MEU office at Police Headquarters Facility, SMART Units are assigned to one of the four Department's geographic Bureaus: Operations-Central Bureau (OCB), Operations-South Bureau (OSB), Operations-Valley Bureau (OVB), and Operations-West Bureau (OWB). However, SMART Units are not restricted to work within a particular Bureau. For example, if a SMART Unit is not available for a call in OVB, a SMART Unit stationed at OCB could be dispatched there.

To see first-hand how SMART Units operate and what challenges they face, OIG staff participated in a ride-along with a SMART supervisor unit on February 22, 2023. Among other things, OIG staff observed the significant delay in response time, due to rush hour traffic that resulted when a SMART Unit was dispatched from OSB to respond to a call in OVB. OIG staff also observed that SMART Units were unable to respond to several radio calls requesting their assistance since all SMART Units were already handling other incidents at the times when those additional calls were generated. SMART Units spent significant amounts of time during their shifts doing things like waiting for a private ambulance to respond to a police station to transport

a patient to the hospital or waiting for a bed at that hospital to become available. OIG staff was advised that such periods of waiting could commonly last as much as six hours, meaning that it is not unusual for a SMART Unit working a 10-hour shift to handle only two or three radio calls in total during their shift.

Mental Health Calls and SMART Unit Statistics

The table below provides the number of MRH radio calls that the Department has received in the last five years, along with the number and percentages of incidents that were handled by MEU.

Year	MHR Calls	Calls Requesting SMART	SMART Unit Responded	Triage Desk Handled	Cases Referred to CAMP
2022	31,292	22,565	6,606 (29%)	16,749	1,616
2021	30,486	18,230	7,469 (41%)	12,350	1,773
2020	32,476	19,226	6,712 (35%)	12,514	1,627
2019	33,064	20,758	7,871 (38%)	12,887	1,834
2018	33,846	20,390	8,338 (41%)	12,054	1,776

SMART – Additional Resources

LAPD's MEU ultimately desires to expand its SMART program to a total of 24 units in order to increase the number of MHR radio calls to which it can respond. Currently, MEU has been approved for 12 additional police officer positions; however, filling these positions is contingent on LACDMH filling its own current clinician vacancies (of which there are currently 7). LACDMH management advised that it is experiencing challenges with filling clinician vacancies due to competitive salaries being offered by other sectors in the industry as well as more appealing perks such as tele-health, which allows clinicians to work from home. The following table shows the number of additional personnel needed, as reported by the Department's MEU, to expand to 24 SMART Units.

MEU Personnel Required for 24 SMART Units			
POSITIONS	Goal	Currently Have	Need
Police Officers	84	52	32
Senior Lead Officers	4	4	0
Supervisors	16	12	4
Total LAPD Personnel	104	68	36
LACDMH Clinicians	50	19*	31

*This number includes 7 current vacancies.

Should the expansion of the MEU occur as desired, a larger facility may be needed to house MEU personnel, and additional equipment will be required (i.e. vehicles, Mobile Data Computers, etc.).

III. DOMESTIC ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM

A DART Unit is composed of an officer and a maximum of two civilian advocates. A critical aspect of the DART program, as indicated by the Department, is connecting a victim to an advocate right after an incident has occurred, whether in-person or via phone. The chances that a victim of domestic violence will indeed seek services available to assist them decrease if that victim is not connected directly to an advocate immediately. Currently, the DART program has 36 advocates working throughout the Department. Of these, 25 are paid by the service provider that employs them, and the remaining 11 are volunteers. Advocates are required by the State of California to complete a 40-hour domestic violence training course. Additionally, DART officers and advocates are also trained by local nonprofit organizations, and they may also receive some training provided by the Department. The attire of officers who work as part of a DART unit is determined by those officers' geographic Area commands – some commands prefer these officers to be in plain-clothes while others prefer them to be in full uniform.

Per the Department, its first DART program started in Van Nuys Area in 1994 in partnership with the Domestic Abuse Center. A second DART program was initiated in 1997 when LAPD's 77th Street Area partnered with Project Peace Makers, Inc., and a third program arose in 2006 when Northeast Area partnered with Peace Over Violence. By 2014, DART programs were in 13 Areas and were partnered with additional service providers, including Sojourn in West Bureau, and Jewish Family Services and Strength United in Valley Bureau. In 2015, DART expanded to all 21 of LAPD's geographic Areas through grant and private funding as well as the City's General Funds. As of fiscal year 2018-2019, DART has been fully funded through General Funds. Contracts for DART service providers, which were last awarded for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, are for three-year terms, and there is an individual contract for each of the Department's 21 geographic Areas. Currently, there are six service providers holding such contracts.

There is one DART Unit assigned at each geographic Area. The days and hours worked by DART Units are determined by each Area after consideration of when there is the highest activity of DVR calls and crimes. DART Units operate on a 4/10 schedule (meaning 4 days per week and 10 hours per day). Whenever no DART Unit is available to respond to a DVR call, patrol officers who respond should advise the victim that the Department works with a community-based organization that can offer them a variety of resources. If the victim would like to be contacted by an advocate within three working days, the victim fills out and signs an "Authorization to Release Contact Information" form, and that form is then given to DART for further follow-up.

DART Statistics

The table on the following page provides the number of DVR radio calls that the Department has received in the last five years along with the number and percentages of incidents that were handled by DART Units (including on-scene responses, station walk-ins, and referrals from patrol officers).

Year	DVR Calls	DART On-Scene Response	DART Station Walk-ins	DART Referrals from Patrol Officers
2022	43,438	1,438 (3%)	469 (1%)	6,128 (14%)
2021	45,175	1,786 (4%)	390 (1%)	3,935 (9%)
2020	42,608	1,976 (5%)	369 (1%)	3,775 (9%)
2019	42,680	2,214 (5%)	860 (2%)	3,726 (9%)
2018	44,199	2,116 (5%)	839 (2%)	4,227 (10%)

DART – Additional Resources

As noted above, DART should be deployed in all of the Department's 21 geographic Areas. However, the OIG was advised that some DART officers have promoted and been assigned to other roles while the positions they vacated have not been filled. Other DART officers have been reassigned elsewhere in the Department due to staffing shortages. The Department indicated that its Detective Bureau is currently working with the Office of Operations to ensure that at least one officer is assigned to DART in each Area.

The OIG was advised that geographic Areas receiving a relatively high volume of DVR calls would benefit from having a second DART officer available. A DART Unit with two officers and an advocate could respond to a call and take over as the primary unit, freeing up the patrol officers who had initially responded to address other calls. The Department also expressed a desire to have a second DART Unit at each geographic Area. This additional unit could assist with the overall volume of DVR calls and could also provide coverage on whichever days the current DART Unit is not assigned to work. Beyond more personnel, the Department indicated that obtaining access to portable Mobile Data Computers (MDCs) for the DART Program would also be beneficial. The portable MDCs would allow DART Units to monitor calls while at their assigned station and determine whether to respond based on the circumstances of the call, as opposed to only waiting for patrol officers to request their response to a scene.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The OIG recommends that the Department continue with its efforts to expand the MEU and create additional SMART Units in order to improve response times and increase the overall number of MHR calls to which a SMART Unit can respond.
2. The OIG recommends that the Department consider expanding DART resources to include having two DART Units at each Area. This would expand DART coverage hours and allow for an increased number of on-scene responses by DART personnel.

3. The OIG recommends that the Department track response time data for its SMART and DART Units. This data may yield valuable insights on how response times of these critical units can be shortened as much as is feasible. With regard to SMART Units, tracking this information will become increasingly important should the MEU be expanded and the number of SMART units increased.

Alternative Response: SMART and DART

A. Annual call volume (for 2018-2023):

• **Mental Health Calls**

Year	MHR Calls	Calls Requesting SMART	SMART Responded	Triage Desk Handled	Cases Referred to CAMP
2023	42,980	23,315	8,308 (35%)	27,079	1,860
2022	31,292	22,565	6,606 (29%)	16,749	1,616
2021	30,486	18,230	7,469 (41%)	12,350	1,773
2020	32,476	19,226	6,712 (35%)	12,514	1,627
2019	33,064	20,758	7,871 (38%)	12, 887	1,834
2018	33,846	20,390	8,338 (41%)	12,054	1,776

• **Domestic Violence Calls**

The volume of domestic violence related (DVR) calls that occur annually, along with Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) responses, station walk-ins and referrals from patrol officers. The Mayor’s Office administers the website that compiles the last three items and the system was recently updated. Because of the update, the numbers for 2023 are unable to be provided at this time.

Year	DVR Calls	DART On-Scene Response	DART Station Walk-Ins	DART Referrals from Patrol Officers
2023	42,721	---	---	---
2022	43,438	1,438 (3%)	469 (1%)	6,128 (14%)
2021	45,175	1,786 (4%)	390 (1%)	3,935 (9%)
2020	42,608	1,976 (5%)	369 (1%)	3,775 (9%)
2019	42,680	2,214 (5%)	860 (2%)	3,726 (9%)
2018	44,199	2,116 (5%)	839 (2%)	4,227 (10%)

B. Costs for Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU) and DART:

• **How many LAPD officers and sergeants are assigned to the Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Team (SMART)?**

The MEU-SMART runs 15-18 clinician units per day (comprised of one LAPD officer and one Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) clinician) in the following schedule:

Currently, SMART has 52 sworn officers deployed to SMART. There have been 12 additional officers approved in the 2023/2024 budget. Six officers are transferring to MEU-SMART Deployment Period 3, 2024, with an additional six officers to be transferred when LACDMH hires an additional six clinicians. After these additional six officers are added, SMART will be fully staffed based on the current budget and approvals.

Alternative Response: SMART and DART

On an average, Day Watch and PM Watch have three desk officers a day. AM Watch has two desk officers a day. Mid Watch may have one desk officer a day, depending on desk deployment needs.

There are 13 supervisors (10 Sergeant Is and 3 Detective IIs) assigned to MEU-SMART, and four supervisors from LACDMH.

There are two clinicians assigned to AM watch. One clinician works Monday-Thursday and the second clinician works Tuesday-Friday. LACDMH authorized overtime for one clinician to work AM watch, Saturday-Sunday, therefore, completing the Department’s mandate of 24/7 coverage for clinicians.

Watch	Number of Units
Day	3/2 (2 clinicians work from Sunday through Wednesday and 2 clinicians work Wednesday through Saturday. They overlap on Wednesdays.)
Mid-Day	5/3 (5 clinicians work from Sunday through Wednesday and 3 clinicians work Wednesday through Saturday. They overlap on Wednesdays.)
PM	7/6 (7 clinicians work from Sunday through Wednesday and 6 clinicians work Wednesday through Saturday. They overlap on Wednesdays.)
AM	2 (Two clinicians are assigned to AM watch. One works Monday-Thursday and 2 nd clinician works Tuesday-Friday.)

- **How many SMART and DART teams are currently fully staffed/does the group have vacancies?**

MEU-SMART

The SMART units deployed to the field are always fully staffed. SMART deploys as an officer/clinician or an officer/officer team in the field. SMART does not deploy single person units for field work. There are currently six vacancies for SMART officers.

Currently, LACDMH has 16 clinician vacancies.

DART

Presently, 20 of the 21 geographic Areas have fully staffed DART units with one service provider advocate and one officer each. One Area (Pacific) has an officer assigned, but an advocate vacancy. The advocate position is being temporarily filled by rotating advocates from the same service provider (Casa de la Familia).

C. For MEU, DART teams and traditional LAPD response:

- **Percentage of deployments that result in handcuffing, citation, arrest or use of force**

MEU-SMART

The LAPD Department Manual Volume IV, Section 217.36, Handcuffing Persons with Mental Illness, states the following:

Alternative Response: SMART and DART

When taking a person with a mental illness into custody, Department personnel shall evaluate the totality of the circumstances to facilitate taking custody of the individual without unnecessarily escalating the contact.

When the age or physical condition (i.e., height, weight, strength, apparent intoxication or influence of an illicit substance) of a person with a mental illness is such that the personal safety of the individual or the officer clearly will not be jeopardized, the use of handcuffs shall not be required, but shall be at the discretion of the officer.

The decision as to the timing and use of handcuffs shall be based in part on the viability of de-escalation factors such as time and distance, to minimize the likelihood that the application of the restraints unduly results in an aggressive, combative response, from the person with a mental illness.

The LAPD Department Manual Volume 1, 240.30, Contact with Persons Suffering from a Mental Illness, states the following:

Contacts with persons suffering from a mental illness, the goal of the Department is to provide a humane, cooperative, compassionate and effective law enforcement response to persons within our community who have a mental illness. The Department seeks to reduce the potential for violence during police contacts involving people suffering from mental illness while simultaneously assessing the mental health services available to assist. This requires a commitment to problem solving, partnership, and supporting a coordinated effort from law enforcement, mental health services and the greater community of Los Angeles.

Arrests are completed by patrol and citations do not apply. The number of 72-hour mental evaluation holds and uses of force are captured and shown in the following table:

Year	72-hour Mental Evaluation Holds	Uses of Force
2023	5,483	0
2022	4,383	6
2021	5,995	10

DART

Regarding the percentage of responses that result in handcuffing, citation, arrest or use of force, the Department does not track handcuffing nor uses of force specific to DVR calls. A citation would not be issued at a DVR call. Additionally, DART response to DVR calls and the results are not captured.

The following table shows the annual number of DVR calls, and the percentage of those that resulted in crimes and/or arrests.

Year	DVR Calls	DV Crimes	DV Arrests
2023	42,721	19,718 (46%)	3,230 (8%)
2022	43,438	17,472 (40%)	3,405 (8%)

Alternative Response: SMART and DART

2021	45,175	20,322 (45%)	4,277 (9%)
2020	42,608	17,080 (40%)	4,513 (10%)
2019	42,680	18,711 (44%)	4,778 (11%)
2018	44,199	19,388 (44%)	5,097 (12%)

- Percentage of deployments where issues are resolved in the field**

MEU-SMART

All responses are handled in the field via mental evaluation holds, evaluations, resources provided to clients, disengagement or no crime or response needed. The LAPD Case Assessment Management Program (CAMP) provides follow-up resources to persons from whom we disengage or could potentially still be at-risk.

DART

All DVR calls have a disposition in the field, such as arrest, crime report, not a domestic violence related incident, or unable to locate parties.

- Percentage of deployments where a connection to a service provider is made**

MEU-SMART

All responses are handled in the field via mental evaluation holds, evaluations, resources provide to client, disengagement or no crime or response needed. LAPD CAMP provides follow-up resources to persons from whom we disengage or could potentially still be at-risk.

DART

During a domestic violence incident, a connection to a service provider can be made in a variety of ways, including an on-scene response by DART, victim walking into a station and meeting with DART, and victim referrals from patrol officers to DART advocates. The Mayor’s Office administers the website that compiles the last three items and the system was recently updated. Because of the update, the numbers for 2023 are unable to be provided at this time.

Year	DVR Calls	DART On-Scene Response	DART Station Walk-ins	DART Referrals from Patrol Officers	Total Connections
2023	42,721	---	---	---	---
2022	43,438	1,438 (3%)	469 (1%)	6,128 (14%)	8,035 (18%)
2021	45,175	1,786 (4%)	390 (1%)	3,935 (9%)	6,111 (14%)
2020	42,608	1,976 (5%)	369 (1%)	3,775 (9%)	6,120 (15%)
2019	42,680	2,214 (5%)	860 (2%)	3,726 (9%)	6,800 (16%)
2018	44,199	2,116 (5%)	839 (2%)	4,227 (10%)	7,182 (17%)

Alternative Response: SMART and DART

D. Additional information requests:

- **Additional information on the level and types of training that LAPD officers assigned to MEU and DART traditionally receive**

MEU-SMART

In September 2014, the Department's Mental Health Intervention Training (MHIT), 40-hour course was established. All sworn patrol officers, assigned to field operations, are required to attend the MHIT course. The course includes an overview of mental illness, crisis de-escalation and communication techniques, the Force Options Simulator (FOS), and live situation/virtual reality simulations that were designed to test the students' understanding of and ability to apply their knowledge.

The MHIT is a paradigm shift from the lecture-based, PowerPoint-driven, instruction of the past, as it utilizes small interactive groups that challenge the students to work as teams and participate in a facilitated adult learning model environment. This course is Senate Bill 29 compliant. The course also includes blocks of instruction from the following:

- The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health;
- The Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA); and,
- The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

The DMH clinicians must have a minimum of a master's degree, nursing degree or psychology doctorate, and are all licensed by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. They are also encouraged to attend the LAPD MHIT course, but it is not mandated.

Currently, SMART officers are provided an additional 750 hours of supplemental training, that are required to conduct field work in the area of mental health crisis response. These trainings are in the area of desk triage intake and interviewing skills, shadow field response with clinicians, Mental Evaluation Unit orientation and response, Mental Health Intervention (MHIT), Crisis Negotiation Training (CNT), Tactical De-escalation, crisis diversion and re-direction shadowing, creation of safety plans and follow-up services and various other mental health trainings sponsored by the LACDMH.

DART

Officers assigned to DART are generally Police Officers II, but can be Police Officers III, who have at least three years of patrol experience. New DART officers are encouraged to shadow current DART officers to learn policies and procedures. The Department has an annual training day for DART officers and advocates, and each geographic Bureau also hosts an annual training day.

Advocates are required by the State of California to complete a 40-hour domestic violence training course. Additionally, DART officers and advocates are also trained by local nonprofit organizations, and they may also receive some training provided by the Department.

Alternative Response: SMART and DART

- **Costs for expansion to the levels recommended in the Board Report**

MEU-SMART

The following is the proposed 24-unit model with 50 clinicians:

Watch	Units Deployed Per Day	Units in Each Bureau
Day Watch (0600-1600)	4	1
Mid-Day Watch (1000-2000)	8	2
PM Watch (1530-0130)	8	2
AM Watch (2030-0630)	4	1
Total:	24	

The deployment above is for one sworn police officer who would be deployed with one Department of Mental Health clinician. The totals above do not include the sworn desk officer deployment, which was identified as 12 officers per day.

SMART/MEU Desk Officers by Watch:	
Day Watch	4 officers
Mid Watch	2 officers
PM Watch	4 officers
AM Watch	2 officers
	12 officers per day to staff desk
To account for days-off based on 15-workdays per DP	$\times 2$ 24 desk officers required to support seven-day coverage

24 Smart Units (Clinician & LAPD Officer Team)	
Officers	24 officers per day to staff SMART
To account for days-off based on 15-workdays per DP	$\times 2$ 48 SMART officers required to support seven-day coverage

Total Personnel	
Desk Officers	24
Smart Team Officers	+ 48
Total:	72 Officers
Accounting for VC at 12% Offset	+ 6 Officers
Accounting for Daily Sick/IOD Callouts	+ 4 Officers
Total officers required for 24 Unit Model	82 Officers

Average Annual Salary per Employee

Los Angeles Police Officer II:	\$120,937*
LACDMH Clinician:	\$120,000-\$150,000 based on training & job classification

Alternative Response: SMART and DART

Sergeant I Field Supervisor: \$154,742*
Total per Team (Officer & Clinician): \$263,984 annually
Total per Team (Officer & Clinician): \$21,999 monthly

In summary, for the 2023/2024 budget, 64 officers have been allotted for. To expand to the proposed model, an additional 18 officers would be needed for a total of 82 officers. This would be an approximate cost of \$2,176,866*

DART

Budget proposal for expansion of DART to two units in each of the 21 geographic Areas:

	Cost	Cost for one additional officer in each of the 21 geographic Areas
DART officer	\$120,937*	\$2,539,677*
DART advocate ¹	\$207,348	\$4,354,300
		Total: \$6,893,977*
		Total cost for the Department: \$2,539,677*

^[1] Cost provided by the Mayor’s Office of Public Safety who oversees DART service provider contracts and payment. This amount pays the advocate and any operational costs the service provider has, such as laptop, internet, phone, and printing of materials.

*edited 5/13/24 by CAO to account for updated salary costs.