



WASCOP'S VIRTUAL CRISIS CARE NEWSLETTER

DID YOU KNOW?

When Virtual Crisis Care is used in South Dakota and Nevada, 8 out of 10 encounters result in the person in crisis remaining at home.



Gov. Gordon and WASCOP Announce \$2.4 Million Grant to Benefit Law Enforcement and Communities

We're excited to announce that the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP) has been awarded a grant to support law enforcement when they respond to people experiencing a mental health crisis.

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust is generously providing \$2.4 million over 3 years to pilot Virtual Crisis Care. "Connecting law enforcement officers and behavioral health professionals is instrumental in providing top-notch care on scene, while reducing unnecessary trips to emergency rooms, mental health hospitals, and jails," said Walter Panzirer, a Helmsley Trustee. "We're excited to help bring this innovative program to Wyoming and improve rural and frontier residents' access to vital mental health resources."

Virtual Crisis Care provides law enforcement with 24/7 access to behavioral health professionals who can assist with de-escalation, stabilization, and safety assessment through the use of telehealth. Following the encounter, a referral for follow-up care is sent directly to a local Community Mental Health Center.

To view the news conference video, click [here](#).





Send Us Your Photos!

We would love to have pictures of law enforcement personnel across the state with their Virtual Crisis Care tablets.

Please email your photos to athompson@wascop.com.

Thank you to Green River Police Department for the photo to the left!

Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Spotlight

Southwest Counseling Service provides comprehensive mental health and substance use disorder services in Sweetwater County and was the first Wyoming CMHC to engage in Virtual Crisis Care.

"We are excited to see more crisis services being provided in Sweetwater County. These virtual services provide a vital link to mental health care and can be the first step to getting help. I applaud law enforcement's efforts to assist our community." ~ Mike Bauer, Clinical Manager

To learn more, visit <https://swcounseling.org/>



Data Highlight

Virtual Crisis Care was **used 6 times** in June and July--**Title 25 placement was avoided each time**. Thanks to Sweetwater Co. Sheriff's Office and Green River and Rock Springs Police Depts. for being the first agencies to pilot the program!



Call for Content

If you would like to feature one of your staff and their experience with Virtual Crisis Care in a future newsletter, please email WASCOP partner, Barbara Pierce, at barbarapierce207@outlook.com.