

Houston County Commission implements Community Mental Health Officer Program

Setup Timeout Error: Setup took longer than 30 seconds to complete.



By Kimberly Hyde | Posted: Mon 3:39 PM, May 08, 2017 | Updated: Tue 6:51 AM, May 09, 2017

DOTHAN, AL (WTVY) May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and Houston County is making sure anyone who might have a mental episode is cared for appropriately.

Monday, Houston County Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the start of the Community Mental Health Officer Program.



Back in March, appointed officers with the Houston County Sheriff's Department, nurses and other first responders, completed mental health certification courses. They learned how to recognize the signs of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, and other forms of mental health illnesses.

Houston County Probate Judge Patrick Davenport sponsored the training. He says thanks to the training, law enforcement officers who are generally first on the scene with a person in crisis, will be better equipped to manage the situation.

"We have been able to do this at no cost to the county," said Judge Davenport. "The Sheriff's Department has assumed the cost by ensuring that there's a lieutenant or sergeant on each shift, so we're able to have somebody that's capable of doing it."

The Community Mental Health Officer Program will be implemented immediately by the Houston County Sheriff's Office.

[Show Comments](#)

Comments are posted from viewers like you and do not always reflect the views of this station. powered by Disqus

