



HALIFAX

Halifax Board of Police Commissioners

Response to Mental Health Calls

May 3, 2023

Scenarios involving police interventions currently:

An incident in which a person, or someone concerned about them, contacts 911 in their time of crisis, which does not include criminality.

An incident where a person commits a criminal offence in their time of crisis.

Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team – a partnership with NS Health. Team consists of mental health clinicians and police officers.



Officers Role under IPTA

- **Under the Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act sec. 14** a peace officer may take a person into custody if they have reasonable and probable grounds to believe:
 - A person has a mental disorder
 - The person will not consent to go for medical treatment
 - It is not feasible to make an application to a judge for an order for medical examination as per sec. 13

Officers Role under IPTA

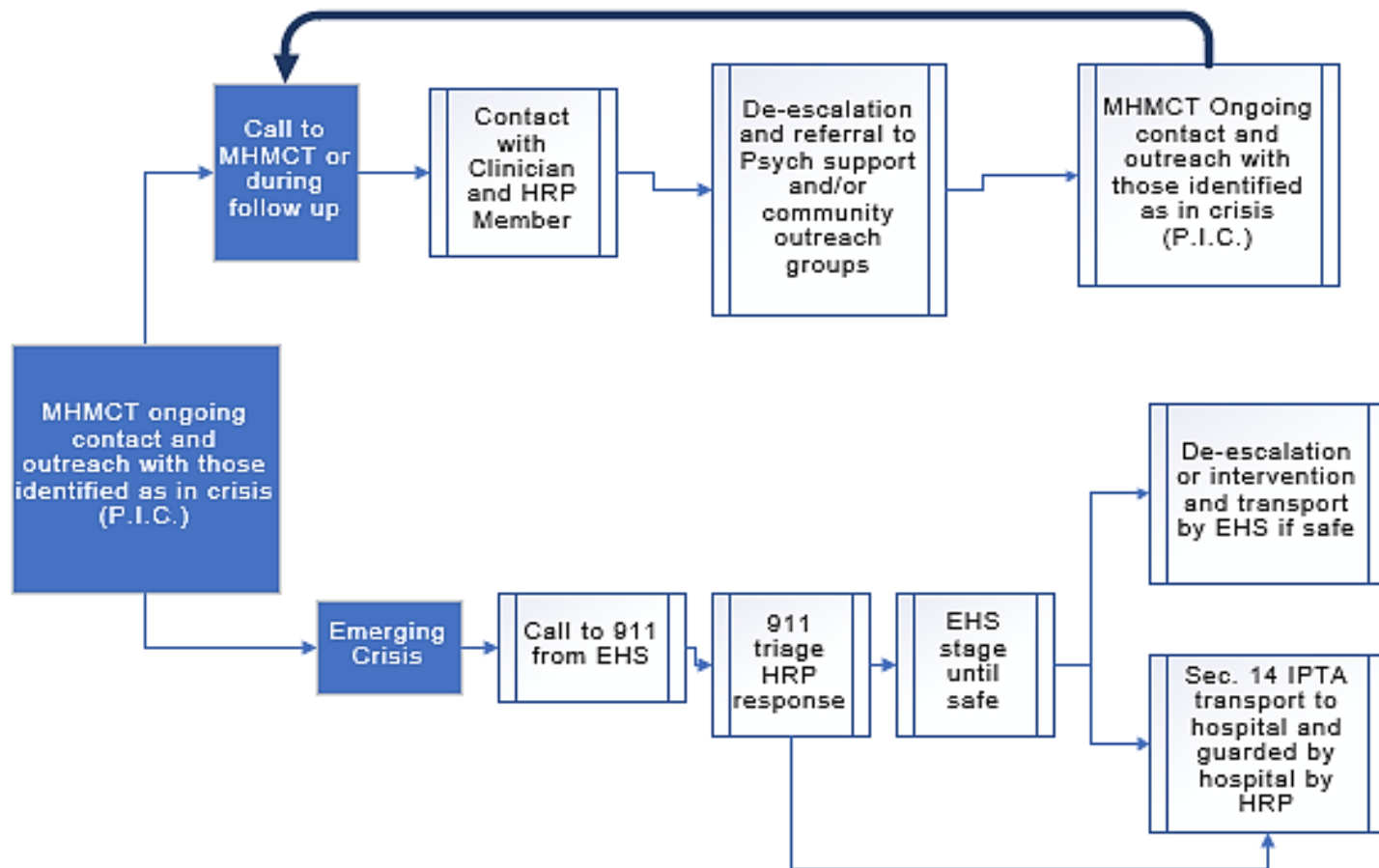
Con't.

The person:

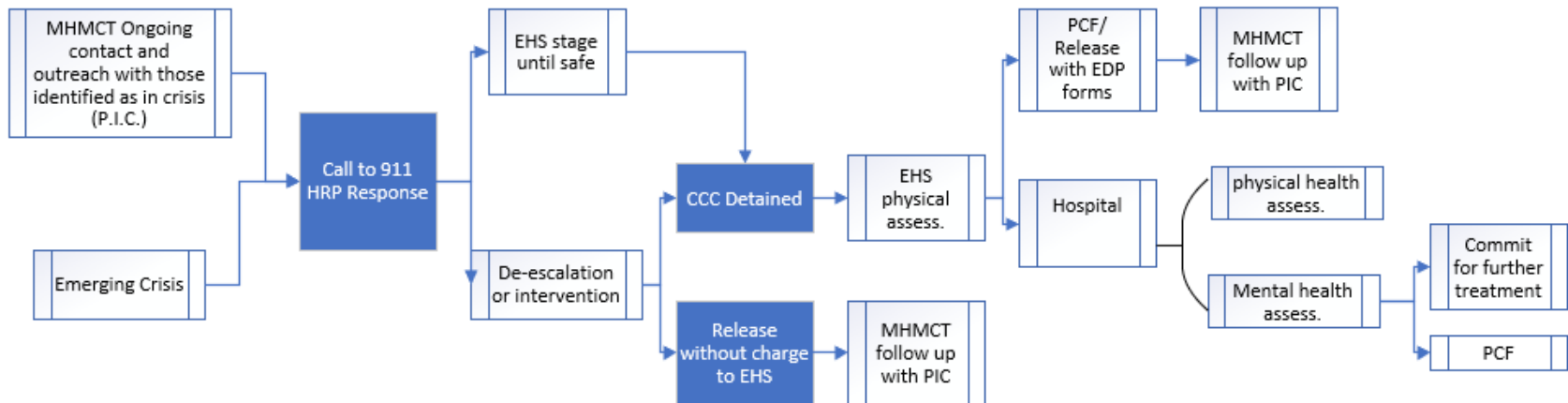
- As a result of a mental disorder is likely to suffer physical harm or serious mental deterioration/ or both
- As a result of a mental disorder, an individual is threatening or attempting to cause serious harm to themselves, another person or has recently done so
- Is committing or about to commit a criminal offence



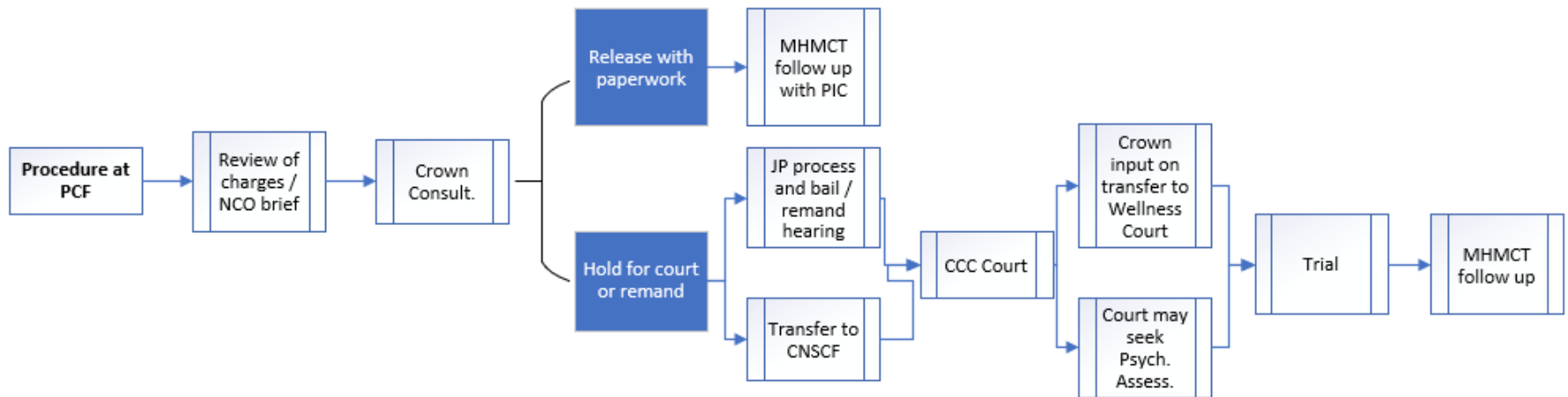
Non-Criminal HRP and/or MHMCT Response



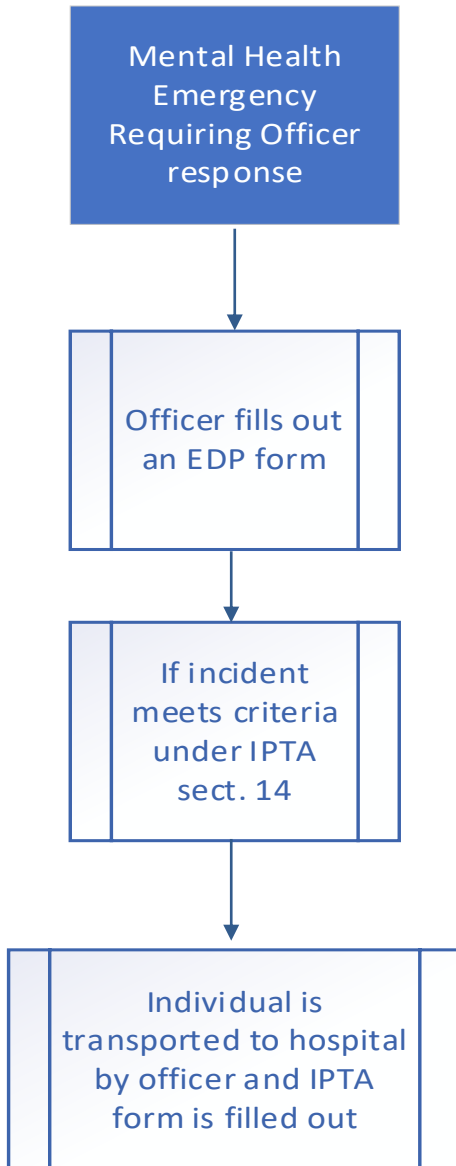
Process Involving Calls with Criminality



Calls with Criminality (Con'td)

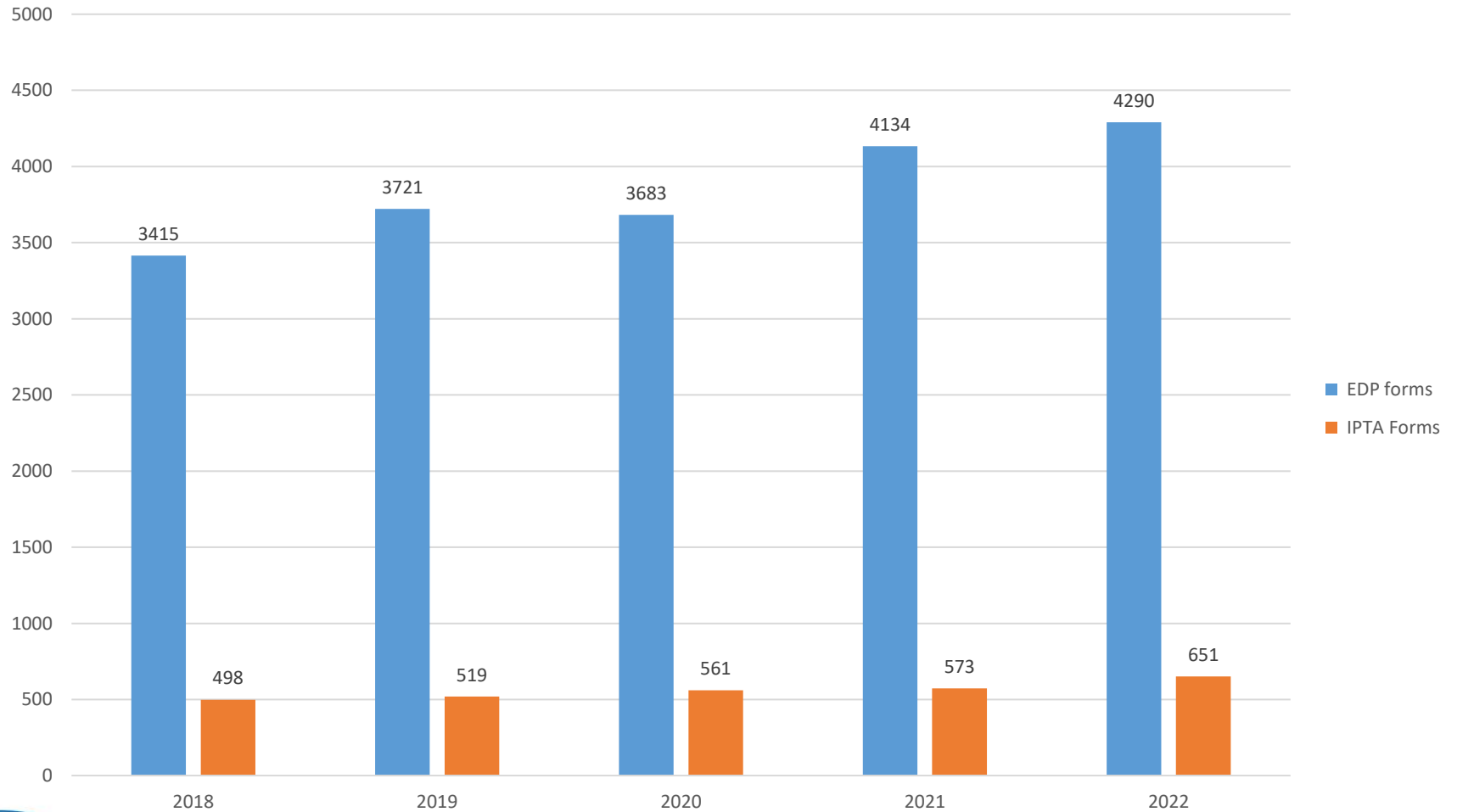


Information Intake for Persons in MH Crisis



- **EDP: Emotionally Disturbed Persons Form.** Filled out anytime an HRP officer encounters someone in mental health distress.
- **IPTA: Involuntary Psychiatric Act Form.** Filled out anytime the IPTA applies and person in crisis is brought to a medical facility for medical care.

EDP and IPTA Stats (HRP) 2018-22



HRP Officer Wait Times in Hospitals

2022

- 651 detained under the IPTA
- Officers waited in hospital for 4,653 hours

Overview of Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team

Presented by:

Mr. Matt White
Director, Mental Health and Addictions
(Central Zone)



Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team (MHMCT)

MHMCT is a partnered crisis support service of The Nova Scotia Health, IWK Children's Health Centre and Halifax Regional Police

MHMCT Goals

To enable individuals experiencing mental health crisis or distress to access a range of crisis intervention services in a timely and effective manner in their own environment or the environment of their choice.

“the right service, in the right place at the right time”

MHMCT Goals

Provide a consistent integrated response to mental health crisis in the community regardless of which service identifies the individual in crisis (CH, IWK, HRP, EHS or the community at large)

“any door is the right door”

MHMCT Goals

To improve overall capacity of the community to address concerns related to individuals experiencing acute psychiatric symptoms and psychiatric crisis through provision of support, information and education to caregivers, community organizations and services and the community at large. In particular, to support the training needs of the identified service partners through both formal and informal processes.

“informed and trained responders result in better outcomes for all”

All Together...

To improve access to Mental Health Service beyond the emergency department

To provide improved training and support in identification of mental health disorders for other service providers and in particular other emergency responders



Key Considerations when forming Partnerships

Memorandum of Understanding

Ministerial Authorization

Steering/Operations Committee

EDP's referral form and process

Police Training in Mental Health

Clinical Staff

Clinicians with MHMCT are called crisis intervenors and have a discipline background in either nursing, social work or occupational therapy with a minimum of two years mental health experience. They work 12 hr shifts with an overlap of staff between the mobile hours of 1-1 so that there is always a clinician answering the phone and triaging calls and the potential for mobile response in the community from 1pm -1 am

MHMCT Officers

Complement of 4 Halifax Regional Police (HRP) Officers dedicated to MHMCT on a minimum 2 year posting. This allows a schedule rotation that guarantees an officer with the team from 1pm to 1 am 365 days a year. These officers work in plain clothes and HRP also provides 2 unmarked cars to the service. An HRP constable goes out on all calls with a mental health clinician. These officers must have completed CIT training (specialized MH training) before consideration for unit.

Clinical Objectives – Crisis Theory and Practice

- To start with least intrusive options first
- To utilize and strengthen natural support networks including circle of support
- To provide confidential, nonjudgmental, supportive and respectful interventions.

Clinical Objectives – Crisis Theory and Practice

- To promote self determination within the parameters of personal and public safety (IPTA – Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Act)
- To value the worth and dignity of every human being
- To be centered on client involvement and collaborative decision making
- To work collaboratively with who the client identifies as family and with the circle of support

By the numbers....

	Telephone	Mobile visit (HRM only)	Unknown	Total
2018	18,961	1,087	119	20,167
2019	18,652	1,080	47	19,779
2020	23,764	1,093	69	24,926
2021	25,357	984	39	26,380
2022	25,914	856	8	26,778



Outcomes..

- Police are spending less time on scene with mental health calls.
- More appropriate access to MH Services are available to clients.
- Less presentations of police to ER with MH clients.
- Less individuals presenting to ED with MH complaints.

Questions/Comments

