

Marcus Alert

Quarterly newsletter on Marcus Alert for Region 4 of Virginia

Co-Response Kudos!

Chesterfield CORE News Feature

As a part of Suicide Prevention Month, 8News published a feature on the Chesterfield CORE Program. [Check out the article and video here!](#)



Richmond City Council Recognition

Richmond City Council proclaimed the third week of September to be Richmond Co-Responder & Crisis Responder Week, recognizing the CRT, CFT, and Mobile Crisis Response for their work.



Mobile Crisis Response Q&A

What is Mobile Crisis Response (MCR)?

MCR is rapid and in-person response to those experiencing mental health crises. MCR providers meet with individuals in the community to assess needs, de-escalate crises, safety plan, and connect to services. The goal of MCR is to reduce cycles of crises and prevent the need for more intense care.

Who provides Mobile Crisis Response?

In Virginia, there are public and private providers of MCR. CReST and REACH are the public MCR providers for Region 4. Both CReST and REACH serve children and adults and operate 24/7, and REACH specifically supports individuals with developmental disabilities.

How do I access Mobile Crisis Response?

To request an MCR, community members should call **988**. The 988 crisis worker will conduct a risk assessment, and if appropriate, dispatch the closest responder. Providers can call the CReST and REACH Mobile Crisis Line directly for consultation or referrals: **833-968-1800**.

How does Mobile Crisis Response relate to Marcus Alert?

Marcus Alert is one of the legislative initiatives that helped to expand crisis services, such as MCR, across Virginia. This expansion aims to prevent crises before they occur and respond to crises where they occur in the least restrictive way.

How can I learn more?

To learn more about CReST and REACH, [click here](#). To learn more about MCR in Virginia, check out [this webinar](#).

CReST Mobile Crisis Response Feature

In this newsletter, we are featuring two clinicians from CReST's Mobile Crisis Response team! Read on to learn about clinicians Abigayle and Ann Curran.



What is your role with CReST?

Abigayle: I am the lead clinician for the CReST Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) team. I have worked with CReST since December of 2023.

Ann Curran: I have been with the CReST program as an MCR clinician since October 2023.

What made you interested in being an MCR clinician?

Abigayle: I was drawn to being an MCR clinician because it allows me to make a real difference in people's lives during critical moments. The role offers a dynamic, challenging environment where I can provide immediate, compassionate support and help bridge gaps in mental health care.

Ann Curran: I was interested in an opportunity that would allow me to work with a variety of populations. Being an MCR clinician enables me to provide immediate support for those of different backgrounds, ages, and socioeconomic statuses.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Abigayle: Managing vicarious trauma. Being exposed to intense and distressing situations can be emotionally demanding. It's crucial to find ways to process and maintain healthy boundaries.

Ann Curran: Locating specific resources for clients who are experiencing a mental health crisis but require additional support such as financial assistance or housing.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Abigayle: Seeing people make progress and regain stability after a crisis. Knowing that I played a role in helping them navigate a difficult time and connecting them with needed support is incredibly fulfilling.

Ann Curran: Advocating for and providing psychoeducation to those who may be experiencing their first mental health crisis and are unfamiliar with how the system works. Being able to connect clients to services that can provide long-term mental health support is very rewarding.

What is something you wish the general public knew or understood about CReST's MCR?

Abigayle: I wish I could share just how much each of our clinician's care about the work they do in the community. I find it truly amazing to have so many dedicated and empathetic clinicians on our team that allow us to approach every situation with empathy and respect to make a real difference.

Ann Curran: An MCR is available 24/7 365 days a year - a clinician is available at any time to collaborate to keep someone safe.



Have questions?

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