

Carleigh Sailon:

I think we started a little bit ahead of the game in the sense that we had a partnership with Denver Police already thanks to the co-responder team that we were running since 2016. So we're really lucky in the sense that Denver Police is really invested in these programs, understands the value, already had clinicians working in their districts. So we sort of had that historical partnership with them already and they were very much on board with the Star pilot, so we didn't have to work very hard to engage DPD. They were very much already engaged in the process and supportive. 9 11 Communication Center was very much on board to go out to Eugene for the site visit and was excellent in terms of developing the decision tree to triage these calls appropriately. And I would say probably one of the most important factors in our planning process was the community work group that we worked with while standing up the pilots.

We worked with Dasher, Denver Justice Projects, Ciricios DelaRaza, the Harm Reduction Action Center, a number of individuals from the community with lived experience, parents of individuals who live with mental illness, and they were really instrumental and helpful in letting us know what they wanted to see in this pilot and the kind of work that they wanted us to do. We worked for about a year with that work group that included DPD and all the community members and 911 communication and Department of Safety and all those things to really develop this pilot before it rolled out. We had a lot of meetings, worked on the acronym for the name, all kinds of different stuff that came up. But it was really helpful for us as kind of the clinicians that were going to be working on the pilot to hear directly from the community what they wanted to see. We were able to put that into practice.