

Speaker 1:

In Denver, we've been running a co-responder program since 2016, which pairs a licensed mental health clinician with the Denver Police Officer to respond to 911 calls that have sort of a behavioral health component. And through our experience running that program, we realized that people call 911 for a variety of different reasons, many of which don't have a criminal justice or law enforcement nexus. So we were really kind of looking for what could be our 2.0 version of that program and how we could send more appropriate resources when someone's calling 911 for an issue that doesn't require an ambulance, a police officer, or fire. So we heard about the CAHOOTS program in Eugene, Oregon and thought that that was a really interesting model and went out and did a site visit, and thought that that would really make a lot of sense for sending the right response when someone calls into 911 dispatch here.

And really our goal is to send appropriate resources depending on what the person needs on the other end of that line, and send a clinician and a paramedic out to provide resources and support and low level medical triage and really connect people to appropriate resources and ongoing support that can help keep them off the 911 system.