

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-98

**APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
ABERDEEN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT AND
MONMOUTH MEDICAL CENTER (RWJ BARNABAS HEALTH
CARE SYSTEM) TO ESTABLISH JOINT PARTICIPATION IN
THE ARRIVE TOGETHER PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, pursuant to NJSA 30:4-27.1, et seq. (“Screening Law”) and NJAC 10:31-1.1, et seq. (“Screening Regulations”), it is the policy of this State to provide for a public mental health system that delivers treatment consistent with a person’s clinical condition, and that screening services be developed as the public mental health system’s entry point in order to provide accessible crisis intervention, evaluation and referral services to persons with mental illness, to offer persons with mental illness clinically appropriate alternatives to inpatient care, and, when necessary, to provide a means for involuntary commitment to treatment; and

WHEREAS, the Parties recognize the importance of ensuring the safety of every person involved in civilian-law enforcement interactions, and that many of the negative outcomes that have resulted from such interactions may stem from law enforcement officers responding to situations involving individuals experiencing behavioral health crises; and

WHEREAS, the Screening Law provides officers and mental health specialists with the legal authority to transport or authorize transport of individuals who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis to an emergency department for a full assessment where appropriate; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers may request the assistance of mental health specialists when responding to emergency service calls that relate to behavioral health crises and mental health personnel may request assistance from officers when responding to requests for emergency screening; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to improve the outcomes in law enforcement’s response to emergency behavioral health crisis calls, to divert individuals in crisis from unnecessary entry into the criminal justice system, and to more efficiently employ the resources of both the PPD and the MHSP as they respond to calls for service, the Parties seek to establish a Pilot Program; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council supports the Aberdeen Police Department entering into the attached Memorandum of Understanding with Monmouth Medical Center (RWJ Barnabas Health Care System).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Aberdeen that it hereby approves the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding to establish joint participation in the ARRIVE Together Program to enhance and support law enforcement and response to certain behavioral health crisis calls.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Council hereby authorizes the Aberdeen Township Police Chief to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding to establish joint participation in the ARRIVE Together Program. The Memorandum of Understanding will take effect upon signatures of the parties and shall remain in effect until June 30, 2025.

Dated: July 23, 2024