

Village of Hamburg, Evans, Eden and Brant all consider sharing mental health worker

Several Southtowns municipalities are considering hiring a full-time behavioral health clinician to share after hearing of their success in other local police departments, such as West Seneca.

Police chiefs and municipal leaders from the Village of Hamburg, Town of Evans, Town of Eden and Town of Brant have all met to discuss the possibility of teaming with not-for-profit Endeavor Health Services to share a behavioral health clinician.

Mental health-related calls, particularly those ending in Erie County Medical Center evaluations, have been on the rise, said Village of Hamburg Police Chief Rick Schara. Endeavor's behavioral health clinicians work with police officers to go out on calls and also follow up on calls after the fact, connecting people with mental health resources, he said.

As reported by *The Sun* in January, mental health calls resulting in hospitalization reduced by about half once West Seneca police started working with their full-time behavioral health clinician through Endeavor.

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