

# Marcus Alert

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The Marcus-David Peters Act is a comprehensive approach to ensuring that Virginia provides a therapeutic, health focuses approach to behavioral health emergencies

Legislation was introduced in the 2020 Special Session of the General Assembly and signed by Governor Northam in December 2020

# A Crisis System Transformation

Improve access and linkage to community services for the person in crisis.

Provide earlier crisis response within the continuum of care

Enhancement of community-based crisis service response

Take police out of the front lines of behavioral health crisis response.

# How will Marcus Alert achieve proposed outcomes?

Development of protocols and policies regarding response to behavioral health emergencies.

Creation of community response teams/mobile crisis response teams

Requirement of voluntary data base for all public safety and communication programs (911).

Creation of Regional Crisis Call Centers

Creation of coalition to review and evaluate systems, especially for Black and BIPOC Virginians.





## Marcus Alert Statewide Stakeholders Group

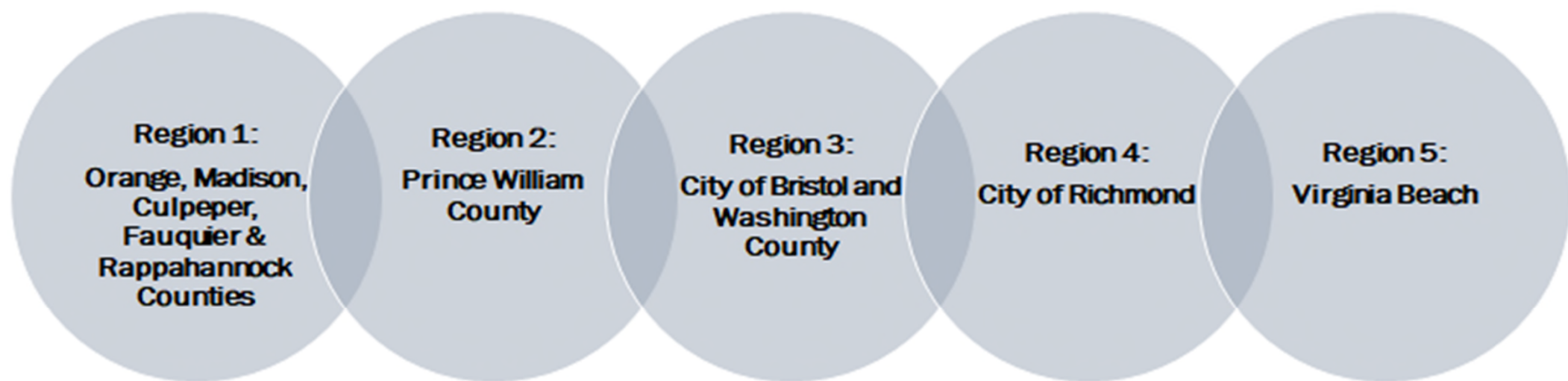
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The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, in collaboration with the Department of Criminal Justice Services and law-enforcement, mental health, behavioral health, developmental services, emergency management, brain injury, and racial equity stakeholders must develop a written plan by July 1, 2021

- Began meeting in January 2020, with diverse statewide group membership
  - Various workgroups for different aspects of the law
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# Specific Steps-Considerations for Multiple Site Implementation

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# Four Level Framework

## Routine Response

- Could be handled over the phone.

## Urgent Behavioral Health Response

- Send a mobile behavioral health response

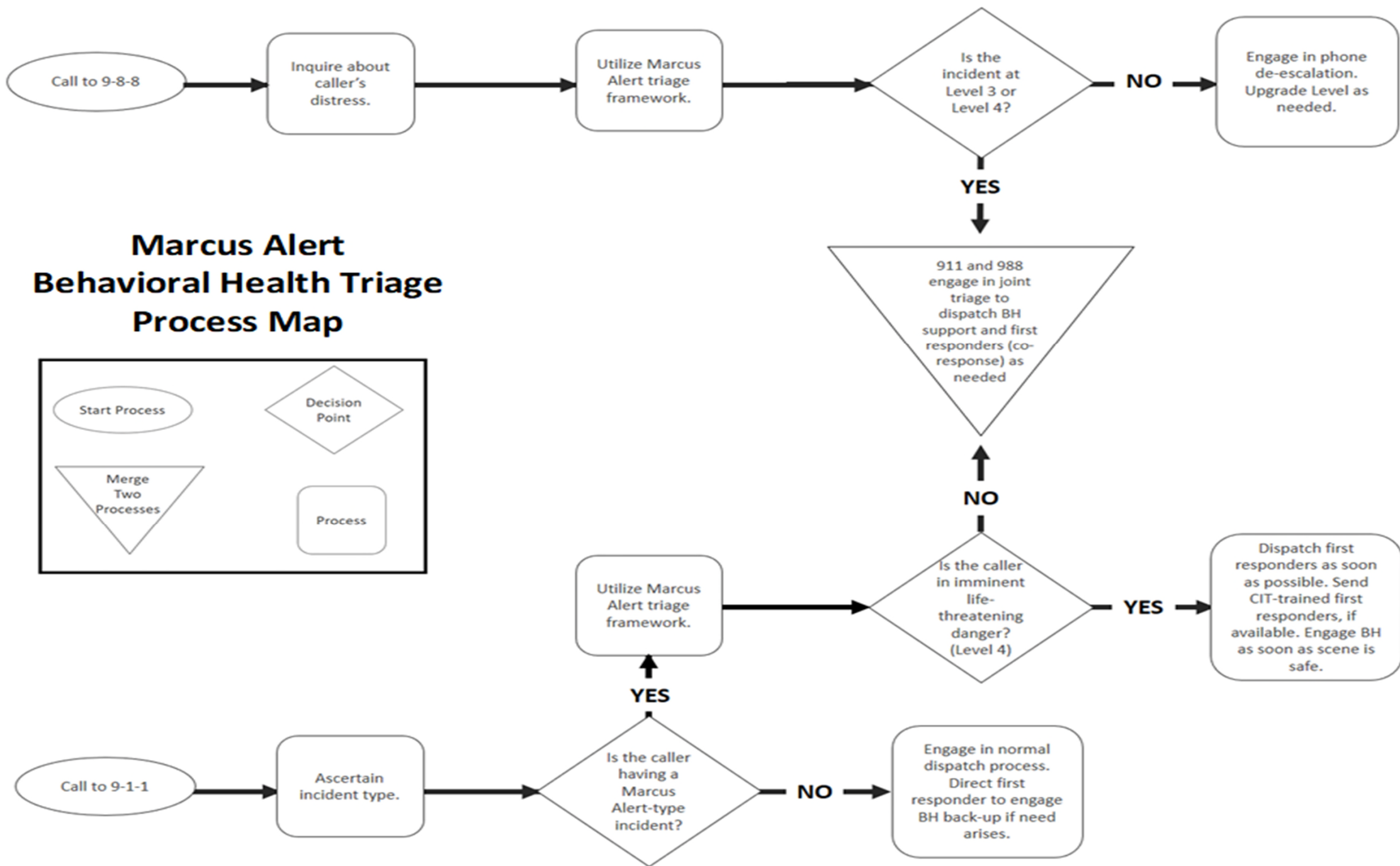
## Urgent Co-Response

- Behavioral Health and Police arrive together
- Behavioral health takes lead once scene is deemed safe.

## Emergent Response

- Police take the lead
- Co-response can step in if deemed safe.

## Marcus Alert Behavioral Health Triage Process Map





# 4 Level Urgency Triage

INVOLVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REMOTE ENGAGEMENT DURING TRANSIT IF POSSIBLE

ASSESS NEED FOR MEDICAL RESPONSE

## **LEVEL 1** **ROUTINE**

**911 PSAPs refer to 988 regional call centers**

- Distressed caller appropriate for phone intervention with trained behavioral health professional with referrals for services within 72 hours
- No homicidal thoughts, intent, or behavior
- Suicidal thoughts acceptable, if no plan and/or means

## **LEVEL 2** **MODERATE**

- Distressed caller with imminent need of in-person behavioral health support
- No homicidal thoughts, intent, or behavior
- Suicidal thoughts with no plan or no direct access to lethal weapons
- Minor self-injurious behavior

## **LEVEL 3** **URGENT**

- Active aggression
- Florid psychosis
- Homicidal thoughts with no active behaviors or intent
- Active cutting (self-injurious behavior) with concern for medical risk
- Suicidal thoughts with plan and access to lethal weapons
- Magistrate-issued emergency custody order, if available and requested by law enforcement

## **LEVEL 4** **EMERGENT**

**911 PSAPs dispatch law enforcement, EMS, and/or fire without delay**

- Direct, immediate threats to life
- Active suicide attempt
- Active assault on others with ability to cause significant harm
- Any gun present and accessible
- Magistrate-issued emergency custody order issued with immediate security threat

What you  
need to make  
this work

A county/city council that is  
supportive

A Police Department that is on  
board

A point person in CSB, Police and  
PSAP

Money



# Police and Mental Health Collaboration in PWC

Involuntary  
Commitment  
Process  
Committee

Co-Responder

Academy  
Trainings

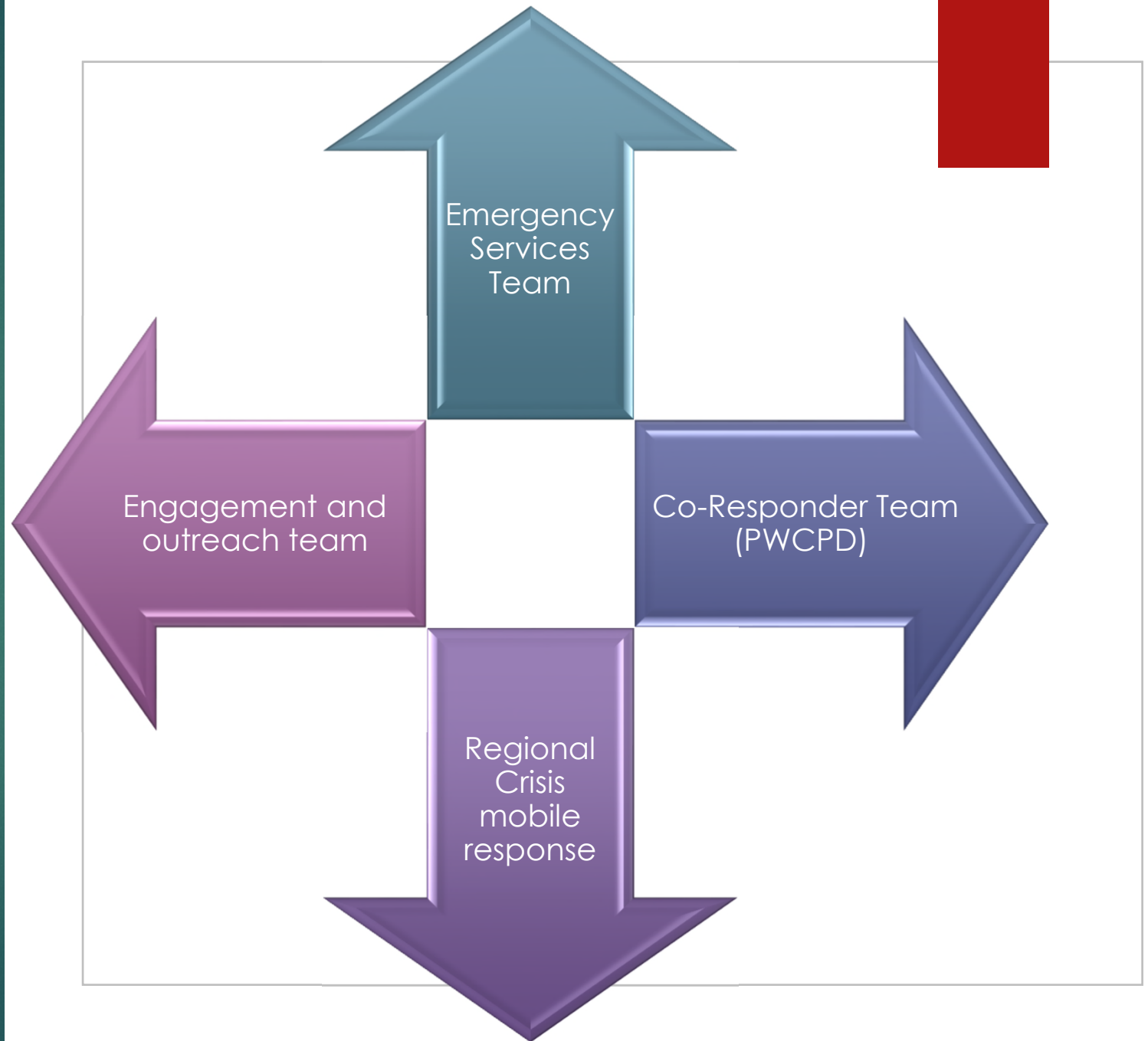
Annual Squad  
Trainings

Supervisor  
Trainings

Negotiator  
Teams

CIT Training

# Prince William Crisis Services





## Possible additions to PWC crisis system

Co-Responder for MPPD and MCPD

Crisis receiving center

Clinician on dispatch floor

Virtual Co-responding with EMS/Police