

Cumberland Safe Streets Coalition Initiative

The Drug Abatement Response Team (DART) Unit was established to provide expertise in the field to diagnose episodes of mental illness and addiction, and the best direction for immediate treatment. Members of the DART team include: police officer, crisis counselor, peer specialist, and parole and probation agent. This Team is responsible for conducting follow-up visits with individuals who have overdosed on heroin. Team members will provide assistance to the individual and an avenue to obtain help for their addiction.

The police officer assigned to the Unit will function as the keeper of the peace and Western Maryland Health System's crisis counselor and peer support specialist provide support and treatment resources. If applicable, the parole and probation agent ensures the individual is still meeting goals and upholding legal requirements.

If the individual wants immediate treatment, the police officer may transport the individual to a local treatment facility, whether it is the Allegany County Health Department Behavioral Health Services or Western Maryland Health System.

The DART initiative is within the Safe Streets Model. The DART Unit is modeled after the Crisis Intervention Team presently in place to address incidents related to mental health episodes occurring in the field to assist law enforcement at the scene.