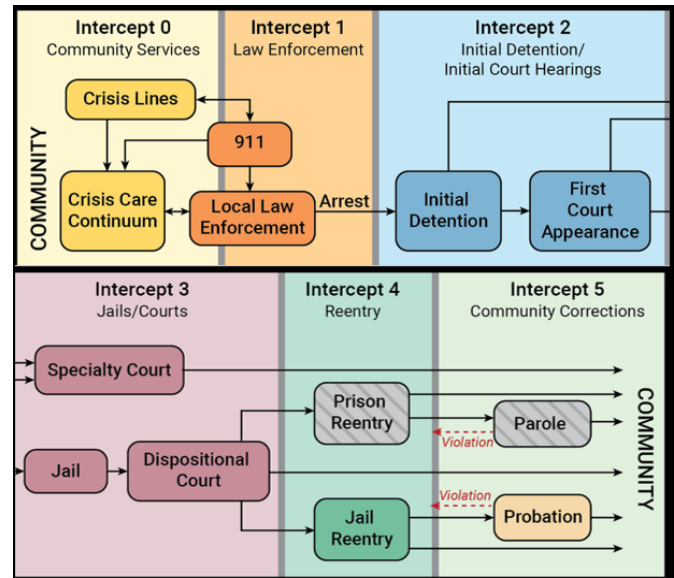


# STEP-VA Crisis Services and the Marcus Alert

DBHDS and community providers have a range of services to connect individuals in crisis to behavioral health services at all points along the Sequential Intercept Model.

- The model demonstrates how individuals with mental health, substance use disorders, and other needs can be diverted from the criminal justice system at different intercept points (e.g., arrest, initial court hearings, re-entry).
- STEP-VA Mobile Crisis services (with Behavioral Health Enhancement rates planned for Dec. 2021) will intervene before law enforcement and support youth and adults in the least restrictive environment they can safely remain in.
- The STEP-VA crisis system is considered an "Intercept 0" intervention, which assists people get help as close to home and with as little intervention as possible.

## Sequential Intercept Model



The model shows how people with behavioral health disorders and other needs can be diverted from the criminal justice system at different points.

There is an increasing call to divert people experiencing a mental health crisis from law enforcement to behavioral health services. As a result, the Marcus Alerts will be part of and complementary to the comprehensive crisis system Virginia has been building.

- A comprehensive crisis system as defined in the Marcus-David Peters Act includes a call center, mobile crisis, community care teams, crisis stabilization centers, and Marcus Alert protocols.
- DBHDS, DCJS, law enforcement, behavioral health, and other stakeholders must develop a written plan by July.
- Five programs must be developed by December 2021, five more by July 2023, and all areas by July 2026.
- The Marcus Alert largely focuses on "Intercept 1" and on effective diversions from 911 and law enforcement into community crisis care. *It complements, but does not replace, "Intercept 0" investments Virginia has made.*
- The re-allotment during Special Session of funds for STEP-VA the Marcus Alert funds will help to establish/expand mobile crisis teams in all regions; however, re-allocation is only part of what is needed for full implementation.

DBHDS is working work with stakeholders on STEP-VA mobile crisis in coordination with the Marcus Alert requirements and broader comprehensive crisis system transformation.

- Key to success of Comprehensive Crisis System and Marcus Alert is capacity of the behavioral health system to create a statewide call center data platform and call center(s), participate in mobile crisis teams or community care teams and serve as referrals for those individuals.
- Ongoing support for and investment in the behavioral health workforce is critical.
- Additional data that will be provided through the data platform will inform future budget request related to services and support needs.

DBHDS works to ensure behavioral health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability services are available to all Virginians who need them in the most community-oriented, integrated setting possible. More information is available

at [dbhds.virginia.gov/about-dbhds/policy-and-public-affairs/ga2021](https://dbhds.virginia.gov/about-dbhds/policy-and-public-affairs/ga2021)