Overview

Individuals experiencing an acute mental health situation need access to comfortable, safe, and supportive spaces for care to align with their needs instead of making their first stop at a hospital Emergency Department. This project would provide a safe welcome for therapeutic stabilization utilizing trained professionals and peer specialists, trauma-informed care, and community partnerships.

Summary

| The Problem | The Northeast Kingdom does not have a dedicated first responder drop-off location for individuals in non-medical mental health distress other than utilizing hospital emergency departments. |
| The Solution | Provide persons in distress immediate access to a continuum of crisis response services. Equip individuals with skills that will enable them to minimize or avert future crises. |
| The Goal | Reduce the number of emergency department visits for people with mental health as their primary concern by providing a welcoming, less restrictive, and safe environment for assessing individuals struggling and bringing quick relief of symptoms. |
| Individuals Served | ● Open access and immediate response for adults and families experiencing acute mental health situations 24/7  
● Those seeking help through 911, 988, or hospitals and walk-ins.  
● Individuals supported by first responders who are in acute mental health distress |
| Objectives/Outcomes | ● NEK community access to mental health professionals, 24/7  
● Immediate relief of symptoms  
● Reductions in behavioral health challenges  
● Reduced utilization of Emergency Department/Law Enforcement for behavioral health situations  
● Access to Peer supports |
| Why Newport | ● Close proximity to supportive community health partners  
● Lakemont building meets all the minimum criteria for programming  
● Fills the GAP in the Crisis Continuum |