## BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT

'in a Minute

Mental Health Evaluation Team (MHET) VOL XXII August 2022



## Ways to Support Children's Mental Health

- Beginning a new school year usually comes with some anxiety, but this year students may need a lot more support before they're ready to learn
  - $\diamond~\underline{70\%}$  of U.S. public schools have reported an increase in students seeking mental health services since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic
  - Isolation, changes in education and effects of the pandemic have resulted in an increase in domestic violence, drug abuse, child abuse and other issues
- The following may be concerns children experience when returning to school: Navigating school rules and routines, increased anxiety and fear, navigating face to face social interactions, knowing how to access help
- The following are tips to help ease back to school anxiety for both students and parents:
  - O Give students time to adjust and provide a safe space to share their feelings
  - Ocommunicate with child, child's teachers and school
  - Emphasize self-care (e.g., focus on sleep, proper nutrition, physical exercise)
  - Impose structure in family life (e.g., mealtime, homework, bedtime routine)
- Mental Health America's <u>Back to School Toolkit</u> offers additional information on how feeling unsafe can impact youth's mental health and school performance
- If you would like assistance in obtaining mental health resources, contact <u>ACCESS Hotline</u> or MHET
- MHET takes the initiative to follow-up on every child that is placed on a mental health commitment to link them and their families to mental health resources and prevent future hospitalizations
- Sources: Kids' Minds Matter, Mental Health America, UNICEF, Child Mind Institute

## **COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

Family Service Agency of Burbank (FSA), (818) 845-7671, 2721 W. Burbank Blvd., Burbank: Provides crisis intervention, clinical counseling, and violence prevention services and education for youth, teens, adults, and families.

<u>ROWI Teen & Parent Wellness Center</u>, (805) 356-3477: Provides ages 12-18 Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP), Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP), and counseling/coaching classes for parents.



**988** has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (now known as the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline), and is now active across the United States.

**988** is for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress, whether that is thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

To learn more, click here!



In June, MHET Officer Kyles and School Resource Detective D. Rodriguez were invited to present at Wisconsin's national school resource officer conference. They taught law enforcement agencies "*How to Build a Multidisciplinary Threat Assessment Team*," a practical approach and response to school threats.

