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RIDECARE ADDRESSES DOJ-IDENTIFIED GAPS IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE

NORMAN, Okla., Jan. 7, 2025: Following the recent Department of Justice (DOJ) report highlighting critical shortcomings in Oklahoma's mental health crisis responses, RideCare is stepping up as a vital solution. The DOJ report emphasizes the need for community-based crisis services, such as urgent recovery centers, mobile crisis teams, and appropriate transportation alternatives. RideCare is proud to offer a compassionate, non-police transportation option, ensuring individuals in crisis are safely and respectfully transported to the care they need without the risk of escalation often associated with law enforcement involvement.

From July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, RideCare provided nearly 12,000 emergency transports, covering over 2.2 million miles. These services directly address transportation as a major barrier to care, a challenge that often prevents individuals from accessing timely treatment.

Recognizing the need for expanded services, RideCare recently added scheduled transports to help people attend mental health appointments and court appearances, further reducing barriers to care. The DOJ's call for systemic reform in crisis response underscores the importance of collaboration across sectors. RideCare is leading the way by working closely with local governments, hospitals, and community providers to advocate for and implement improved crisis response protocols. Together, these partnerships create a safer, more respectful approach to mental health care, providing a dignified pathway to recovery for individuals in need. As Oklahoma takes steps to address the challenges outlined in the DOJ report, RideCare remains committed to being a driving force for meaningful change.

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