



## GYMNASTICS Medina is state runner-up, C1

The Medina Bees gymnastics team poses with the state runner-up trophy.  
RON SCHWANE / GAZETTE

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# GAZETTE

SATURDAY, March 5, 2022

\$1.75

## MEDINA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE Crisis negotiation team adds mental health clinician

**Sara Crawford**  
The Gazette

MEDINA — When a call for the SWAT team is placed, law enforcement from the county is notified to respond to the call. Now, in addition to officers, a mental health clinician will respond to the call as a part of the crisis negotiation team.

“One of the components of that team is our crisis response team, which helps out with negotiations with maybe individuals that are held up inside,” Medina County Sheriff Terry Grice said.

The Medina County Sheriff's Office has worked with Alternative Paths, contracted through

the ADAMH Board, to provide behavioral health services to inmates in the Medina County Jail.

At the jail, Alternative Paths provides seven clinicians a support staff member to provide mental health, chemical dependency and prevention services. Alternative Paths also partners with the sheriff's office for the Opiate Response Team, which links persons with opiate addiction to needed treatment.

Gail Houk, director of forensic services at Alternative Paths, will be filling the role as the initial clinician on the crisis negotiation team.

“Over the past year we have

started new initiatives such as clinicians riding out with deputies weekly to co-respond for calls involving mental health concerns,” Houk said in a news release.

“Adding a clinician to the crisis negotiation team will be another step in enhancing how we work together to help the community as well as our first responders.”

According to Grice, they thought that bringing on a clinician would be a good addition for both the calls that the team is on and to be an advocate for the first responders on the scene.

See **SHERIFF, A2**

## SHERIFF

From A1

Grice said many of the calls the SWAT team responds to involve individuals who are going through a mental health crisis.

“Gail can lend input along with the

other experienced members already on the team,” Grice said.

Houk has already been on two calls with the crisis negotiation team and Grice said that everything has worked well so far. Grice hopes that as Houk responds to more calls, the team can evaluate how to build and improve the position.

“It's not a benefit just to the sheriff's office,” Grice said. “It's a benefit to everyone involved in these high-stress situations because we're providing the best resources possible during moments of stress.”

Contact reporter Sara Crawford at (330) 721-4063 or [scrawford@medina-gazette.com](mailto:scrawford@medina-gazette.com).