

*Engagement with Law Enforcement:*  
Connecting Care for our Communities, Consumers,  
and Families



# Terms of Engagement

- “Engagement is defined as participation, sharing, or involvement.” National Dialogues on Behavioral Health, 2019

- Question posed to all of us at this conference:

“Are we engaging all of the parties who may need to participate in the care of an individual in behavioral health / mental health care?”

- Question for all of you:

How many present are engaged with local law enforcement in a strong, and positive collaboration in behavioral and mental health efforts?

# Extent of the Issue

Because..”all of the parties who may need to participate in the care of an individual” actually equates to “those parties that will participate...”

- Deinstitutionalization / placement in the community
  - Often with no support system
  - Non-compliance with medications
  - Co-occurring substance disorder(s)
  - Group Home settings in the community
- Traditionally, law enforcement officers are the first to respond to crisis situations involving individuals with behavioral health, substance use or co-occurring substance use, and mental health disorders.

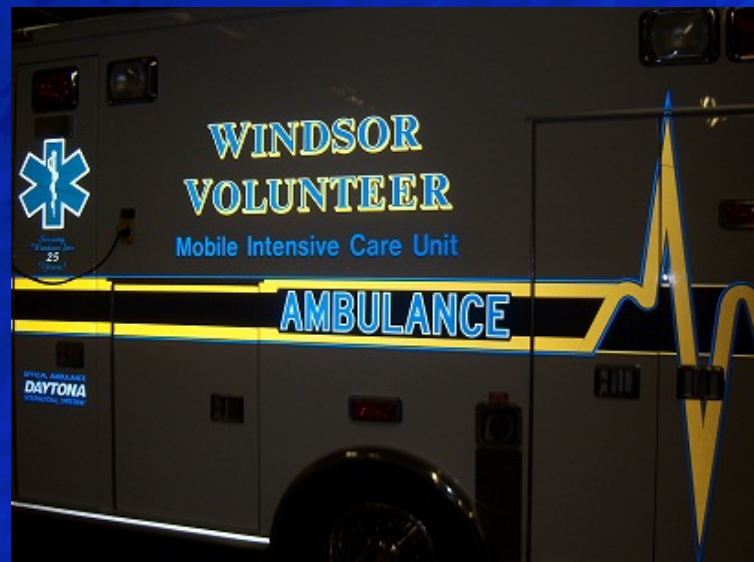


# Extent of the Issue

- Law enforcement personnel encounter individuals with behavioral health disorders of all ages in six (6) general situations:
  - as victim of a crime;
  - as a witness to a crime;
  - as the subject of a nuisance call;
  - as a possible offender;
  - as a danger to themselves or others,
  - in school / youth-based situations.

# Extent of the Issue

- Law enforcement responses, until approximately the late 1980's (1987-Memphis, TN) were:
- **Transport person to the hospital** for evaluation and care: {Emergency or Involuntary commitment}
- **Arrest**
- **Do nothing**



# Extent of the Issue

**Sec. 17a-503. (Formerly Sec. 17-183a). Detention by police officer prior to commitment. Issuance of emergency certificates by psychologist and certain clinical social workers and advanced practice registered nurses.** (a) Any **police officer** who has **reasonable cause** to believe that a person has **psychiatric disabilities AND is dangerous to himself or herself or others or gravely disabled, AND in need of immediate care and treatment**, may take such person into custody and take or cause such person to be taken to a general hospital for emergency examination under this section. **The officer shall execute a written request for emergency examination detailing the circumstances under which the person was taken into custody, and such request shall be left with the facility.** The person shall be examined within twenty-four hours and shall not be held for more than seventy-two hours unless committed under section 17a-502.



# Extent of the Issue



- Arrest for low-level crimes (i.e. petty theft, panhandling, public urination, trespassing, etc.)
- “Nuisance” offenses result in being trapped in repetitive cycle:
  - Arrest
  - Short Jail stays
  - Return to the street without proper / sustained treatment

# So what has changed?





# Law Enforcement Profession Responses

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- Law enforcement personnel are receiving advanced training with a focus on:
  - De-escalation,
  - mental health awareness,
  - signs and symptoms of mental illness,
  - and resource referral.

# Law Enforcement Profession Responses

- Crisis Intervention Team training (C.I.T.)
  - C.I.T.-Y : CIT for Youth 8 hour supplemental training
- Mental Health First Aid (for Youth, Public Safety, Veterans)
- Adolescent Mental Health Training for Police Officers and School Staff
- Trauma Informed Care / Trauma Informed Policing
- Peer Support Teams

# Law Enforcement Profession Responses

- Law enforcement has and continues to develop, implement, and fine tune policies, procedures, and training consistent with the recommendations of:
- The 2015 Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing,
- The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP),
- National Mental Health authorities such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration Services (SAMHSA)



# Law Enforcement Response



# Next Steps / Action

- Connect with your local law enforcement agencies in your jurisdictions
  - Establish rapport, trust, and partnership
- Meet on frequent basis
- CIT collaboration
- Co-responder model
- Grant funding opportunities
- Community Mental Health Fairs / Events
- Provide / sponsor training for police, fire, EMS

# Resources

- <https://www.theiacp.org/resources/officer-response-to-mental-illness> - IACP Officer Response to Mental Illness
- <https://www.theiacp.org/resources/policy-center-resource/mental-illness> – IACP Responding to Persons Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis
- <http://www.citinternational.org/> - Crisis International Team, International





# Resources (con't)

- [https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program\\_ID=66](https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=66)  
US Dept of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Grant Funding: Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program
- <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sm-18-005> US SAMHSA Grant Funding: Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health Partnerships for Early Diversion
- [https://www.bja.gov/Publications/JMHCP-Learning-Sites\\_2018.pdf](https://www.bja.gov/Publications/JMHCP-Learning-Sites_2018.pdf) US DOJ, BJA Fact Sheet: Overview of Law Enforcement Mental Health Resources

# Questions?

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**Thank you for your time and attendance!**

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