Connecticut General Assembly

Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Improving Police Interactions with The Disability Community
Subcommittee
12-08-20

Recommendations for consideration in 12/31/20 report:

911/Emergency Response

- Uniform statewide registry for disability community w/local law enforcement
  - Is this indicated on State ID? Voluntary? How do we do it in a manner that protects the privacy/stigma issues of those involved? Is access just to the residence town, or across borders as well? Can a best practice policy for PDs be developed? Is info subject to FOI? HIPAA? Survey local police for current standards/practice? National best practices?
- Uniform statewide 911 standards for assessing potential disability during call
  - What are appropriate questions to ask? Do HIPAA standards apply?
- Training for disability community to inform 911 of disability during call
  - What should departments be doing to strengthen relationships w/disability community? Can we reach out to various non-profits to notify police departments about community resources?
- Separate 911 #?
  - Efficacy of different number for response to crisis. How is 211 working relative to this population/issue?
- Who responds? Sec 18 of PA 20-1 Social worker potential?
  - Successful models elsewhere? New Haven?
  - Worthwhile doing a full, comprehensive statewide study w entity familiar w/best practices? DHMAS presentation at next meeting to provide info on this section – relative to mobile crisis and CIT. Can learn from New Haven and their planned adoption of the Eugene, Oregon CAHOOTS model. Cost?? NASW-CT info shared to subcommittee.
  - Consider supporting CBA Task Force’s draft recommendation

Data gathering

- Use of force data collection – contain disability specific information in report
- Deadly force incidents – what does the data tell us?
CT Bar Association, Policing Task Force, Data Subcommittee assessing 84 deadly use of force incidents that have occurred in CT since 2001 and created a database on consistently reported elements. Worth exploring the likelihood of individuals in severe mental distress being involved in these incidents. Also race/ethnicity/gender is a factor. Almost half involve individuals in clear mental distress. CIT team involved? Very few instances handled beyond initial officer responding. CREST/SWAT teams likely involved. Best practice recommendation: Cameras required and less lethal options made available?

Youth

- SRO specific guidelines for disability school community
  - Access to student info (IEPs, etc)

Training

- More widescale assessment of current POSTC training relative to disability community
  - ALEC/CIT?
  - Incident response review/follow up?
  - State PD should mirror local PD training and vice versa. Continue to engage Karen Boisvert from POSTC in these discussions.
  - Funding?? Is there mandatory recurrent training on critical issues relative to the disability community?
  - Reach out to POSTC to assist in achieving goals.
  - Gather more information on training and retention relative to diversity, inclusion.

Next steps:
- Request Karen Boisvert to participate in upcoming discussion.