

# Connecticut General Assembly

## Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Jon Slifka, Chairperson



c/o Judiciary Committee, Room 2500  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Ct 06106

### Improving Police Interactions with The Disability Community Subcommittee

#### Minutes

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

11:00 a.m., via Zoom

*Attendees: Jonathan Slifka (Chair), Andrew Clark, Meghan Peterson, Alvin Chege, Maggie Goodwin, Andrea Duarte, Brian Foley, Lisa Tepper Bates, Marc Pelka, Brian Anderson, Bill Knoegel, Tim Marshall, Chief Jack Drumm, Annie Scully, Dana Begin, Vincent Russo, Mary Kate Mason, Gretchen Knauff, Kat Northup, Dan Petrolito, Maureen Lopes, Makenzie Ozycz, Sheri Romblad*

**I.** Convene meeting and welcome

*a. Chair Slifka convened the meeting at 11:04 am.*

**II.** Introduction of Members

*a. Chair Slifka introduced the members*

**III.** Review and approve Minutes from 8/31/21 Meeting

*a. The minutes from 8/31/21 were approved via voice note.*

**IV.** Updates:

**a.** Social Worker Recommendation reports

*Meghan Peterson updated that there have been 79 submitted and reviewed reports. Meghan Peterson recommends a visual breakdown of the reports by the subcommittee. All five locales in the state have said yes to social worker feasibility. Andrew Clark commented that the original recommendations document passed out of the subcommittee would not be up for a vote in the full Task Force until the next meeting, and this visual breakdown could be added for background material. Chair Slifka asked how we should proceed from here. Andrew Clark responded without objections it can be added to the recommendation. There were no objections to adding the additional information.*

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b. Sequential Intercept Model Recommendations

*Meghan Peterson updated on the template being used to guide the research. The document is grounded in the SIM based on interaction with the disability community. This will be voted on at the next Task Force meeting. Sheri Romblad commented that there should be a description and breakdown on cost accrued. Maggie Goodwin commented on the different options that departments could work with social workers, including nonprofit agencies. Meghan Peterson responded there is an option of contracting out or joining with another PD. Lisa Tepper Bates commented on a funding model used for smaller towns. Chief Drumm commented that most PD's will be working with school psychologist, and working to find funding for new hires.*

V. Items for consideration:

a. CBA Policing Task Force Recommendations (3<sup>rd</sup> viewing, vote)

*Andrew Clark provided background on the recommendation. He invited CTSAB to the floor to further discuss this recommendation and the state's plan to implement 988. Andrea Duarte presented that each state is presenting a plan to provide this service. Mary Kate Mason shared concern about the increased tax affecting the initiative, she asked the committee to not include that piece in the recommendation. Lisa Tepper Bates shared a visual on the three-digit dialing code for accessing the Suicide Prevention Lifeline, highlighting the surge of calls. Chair Slifka responded that 988 needs to have options for disabled individuals. Lisa Tepper Bates responded they have been wanting to move forward with text options and doubling the size of the crisis team to accommodate important calls.*

*Chair Slifka motioned to adopt number 1 on below list, Chief Drumm motioned, Chair Slifka second, with all in favor with none opposed the motion passes. Chair Slifka motioned adopt number 2 on below list, Chief Drumm motioned, Gretchen Knauff second, with all in favor with none opposed the motion passes. Chair Slifka motioned to adopt number 3 on below list, Chief Drumm motioned, Gretchen Knauff second. Lisa Tepper Bates commented to add in information on the tax "if necessary" to the recommendation as a friendly amendment. Chair Slifka motioned to approve recommendation number three with the friendly amendment. Gretchen Knauff motioned, Chair Slifka second, one opposed (Marc Pelka), the motion passes.*

*Andrew Clark provided information on the recommendations being presented: "The CBA Taskforce recommendations on this topic that we are considering: Recommend*

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legislation to: 1) implement the federally mandated 988 crisis hotline system; 2) enhance and expand behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention services statewide; and 3) fund the system through SAMSHA and DMHAS grants, reimbursements from private and public insurers, and, **if necessary**, funds raised by imposing a federally-authorized excise tax on commercial mobile services or IP-enabled voice services.”

b. Section 16 Recommendation (CT NASW) (1<sup>st</sup> viewing)

*Recommendation:*

*To add licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) to the list of approved individuals able to make a behavioral health assessment, per Section 16 of PA 20-1.*

*The new language would read:*

*Sec. 16. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) As used in this section: (1)*

*"Administrative head of each law enforcement unit" means the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the board of police commissioners, the chief of police, superintendent of police or other authority having charge of a law enforcement unit; and (2)*

*"behavioral health assessment" means a behavioral health assessment of a police officer conducted by a **licensed clinical social worker**, a board-certified psychiatrist or psychologist licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 383 of the general statutes, who has experience diagnosing and treating post-traumatic stress disorder.*

*Andrew Clark commented on Section 16. Bill Knoegel commented that their overall perspective would be helpful for PD's. Gretchen Knauff questioned about diagnosing PTSD within the recommendation. Maggie Goodwin responded that you could do that, training and licensing requirements could determine that. Andrew Clark questioned why weren't they included in the first place. Chair Slifka called for a motion to move this to the full Task Force. Chief Drumm motioned, Gretchen Knauff second, all in favor with no opposed the motion passes.*

**VI.** Other business

a. *There was no other business to discuss.*

**VII.** Announcement of time and date of next meeting

a. *October 26, 2021 11am*

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### VIII. Adjournment

*a. Chair Slifka adjourned the meeting at 12:32 pm.*

[Zoom meeting link](#)

DRAFT