

Connecticut General Assembly

Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Improving Police Interactions with The Disability Community Subcommittee 11-17-20

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.*

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.*

Next steps:

- Share w/state agencies prior to next meeting.
- Request Karen Boisvert to participate in upcoming discussion.