

Connecticut General Assembly

Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Improving Police Interactions with The Disability Community Subcommittee 12-15-20

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.*

(NEW) Recruitment/Outreach

- Recruit police officers who have direct engagement/contact with persons who are differently abled (relatives, friends, colleagues)?
- Rapport, relationships key to building trust between police and the communities they protect & serve. Communities more receptive to police who understand them. Apply same principle to the differently-abled community and building trust between this community and law enforcement?
- https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/BuildingTrust_0.pdf
- Concept of community-oriented policing; community “insiders” walking the beat
- Importance of police legitimacy and procedural justice in shaping public’s perception – now-classic work from 2003 by Jason Sunshine and Tom Tyler in *Law & Society* journal