

PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING

Mental Illness and Crisis Intervention Strategies at MPD

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IN SOME JOBS, SUCCESS IS MEASURED
BY WHAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.



BE A FORCE

Presented on May 22, 2014

THE MEMPHIS MODEL

- × In 1988, the Memphis Police Department, in cooperation with educational institutions, mental health providers, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness, established a specialized unit known as the Crisis Intervention Team
- × Goal was to develop a more thoughtful, safe, and understanding approach toward mental illness
- × Moved from a traditional LE response to more humane treatment of those suffering from mental illness
- × Their innovative approach became known as the Memphis Model utilizing officers that volunteer to become a Crisis Intervention Team Officer

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- × Individuals in need are identified and provided with care
- × Officers better trained in verbal de-escalation techniques
- × Since the inception of the program, officer injury decreased substantially
- × Decline in arrests and use of force
 - + According to University of Tennessee studies, arrest rates decreased for mentally ill subjects
 - + Health care diversion, low rate of mental illness in jails
- × Based Milwaukee's CIT on the Memphis Model

OVERVIEW OF MPD CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

- × The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) consists of law enforcement officers, mental health professionals, and community advocates
- × Frequently called to provide assistance for those in crisis; given priority for assignments pertaining to individuals with mental illness
- × MPD has 367 members who received CIT training
 - + Sworn (341); Civilian (26); 86 CIT Officers are taser-trained
 - + Officers, detectives, supervisors, dispatchers, and police telecommunicators



CIT TRAINING & CLASSES

- × Since 2006, MPD has conducted eleven CIT classes.
- × Members receive 40 hours of specialized training:
 - + MPD partners with local mental health professionals and agencies
 - + Includes identifying mental illness, substance abuse, de-escalation, listening, psychiatric medications, emergency detentions, and resources for families
- × In addition, police recruits receive a 16 hour Training and Standards Curriculum regarding mentally ill persons; mental health providers assist.

HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM (HOT)

- × Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 165 on Homeless Persons states that members shall treat homeless persons in a manner that respects individual rights, human dignity, and community values while enforcing laws that protect life, liberty, and property.
- × Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) officers connect the homeless with health, mental health, social and housing services, substance abuse treatment, and other resources for evaluation and assistance (30 trained officers to date).
- × Officers provided with 16 hours of training, including site visits with service providers for future referrals
- × Since 2010, over 40 people are no longer homeless as a result of interventions with outreach officers

CRISIS ASSESSMENT RESPONSE TEAM (CART)

- × Collaborative effort between MPD and Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division (BHD)
- × Consists of a trained CIT and Homeless Outreach Officer, Registered Nurse & Paramedic, and Behavioral Health Crisis Mobile Team Clinician
- × Responds to assist officers in the field to determine appropriate disposition for mental health related calls for service (for persons 18 and older)
- × Accept referrals from BHD Crisis Mobile Team

CART MISSION

- × Provide dignified, reliable services to all persons in crisis
- × Decrease the volume of involuntary emergency detention calls in Milwaukee County
- × Mental health assessment and CJF clearance for prisoners in custody
- × Medical and mental health facilities liaise to foster community partnerships
- × Respond to high priority calls for service involving mentally ill persons, including barricaded subjects, suicidal individuals, etc.
- × Attempt to decrease repeated interactions between those diagnosed with persistent mental illness and I

SAVING LIVES

- × In 2013, officers responded to more than 7,000 calls for service involving mentally ill persons.
- × Each year, during the course of their regular duties, police officers save the lives of numerous citizens in the City of Milwaukee.
- × Since November 2012, 28 members of the Milwaukee Police Department received merit awards for saving the lives of mentally ill or suicidal persons.



MAY 2014 – LIFESAVING AWARD

- × On September 21, 2013, Bicycle Officers Frank, Klabunde, and Rydzewski responded to a suicide attempt beneath the Locust Street Bridge.
- × The caller suggested his mentally ill friend was located near the rocks by the river.
- × Officers initially tried to get the subject to drop the razor blade, but eventually disarmed him and called for medical assistance.
- × The subject slipped into unconsciousness from blood loss, and knowing that time was of the essence, officers carried the individual from the wooded terrain to safety.
- × Their heroic efforts prevented loss of life.



FALL 2012- LIFESAVING AWARD

- × On November 12, 2012, Police Aide Figueroa was on his way home from work when he observed a subject climbing onto a bridge.
- × Police Aide Figueroa engaged the subject, who was standing outside of the bridge fence on a ledge.
- × He grabbed the subject's jacket through the fence to prevent him from committing suicide by jumping.
- × At the same time, PA Figueroa summoned assistance using his cell phone while maintaining dialogue with the individual and holding onto his jacket.
- × He was subsequently removed and conveyed for medical evaluation.
- × PA Figueroa's brave actions prevented loss of life.