

**PITTSFIELD POLICE
DEPARTMENT
CO-RESPONSE
PROGRAM**

CRISIS INTERVENTION – THE ART OF
UNDERSTANDING THROUGH RELATIONSHIP
BUILDING



INTRODUCTIONS

**LAW ENFORCEMENT
RESPONSE TO
PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

Understanding the challenges
of incidents involving persons
with mental illness

A nationwide survey report
May 2019



Get the Report



POLICE RESPONSE WITHOUT A CO-RESPONDER

- OFFICER'S DECISION TO SECTION 12 SOMEONE IS LARGELY BASED ON WHAT THEY ARE TOLD (SECTION 12 REFERS TO THE STATE STATUTE)
- IF SOMEONE SAYS, "I FEEL SUICIDAL" THE DEFAULT IS SECTION 12 TO HOSPITAL FOR MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION

- THE INDIVIDUAL IN CRISIS IS TRANSPORTED TO ER
- MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIANS ARE BRIEFED AND SEC. 12 PAPERWORK IS COMPLETED
- OFFICERS CLEAR CALL

POLICE RESPONSE WITH CO-RESPONDER

- OFFICERS RESPOND TO CALL WITH CO-RESPONDER
- ONCE THE SCENE IS SAFE, OFFICERS AND CO-RESPONDER SPEAK TO THE INDIVIDUAL
- THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO SEC. 12 IS DISCUSSED

THE ART OF UNDERSTANDING THROUGH
RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

**“A CRISIS REFERS NOT TO THE
THREATENING SITUATION BUT TO THE
PERSON’S EMOTIONAL REACTION”**
(Caplan et al 1950)

Crisis Intervention TEAM (CIT)

- **CIT OFFICERS ARE EFFICIENT AT CRISIS RESPONSE**
- **INCREASED JAIL DIVERSION WHEN APPROPRIATE**
- **IMPROVED TREATMENT CONTINUITY**
- **EARLY RECOGNITION OF SYMPTOMS (MENTAL ILLNESS AND EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION)**
- **DECREASED POLICE AND CIVILIAN INJURY RATES**

WHY SPECIALIZED APPROACHES MATTER

- OVER REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE WITH MI IN PLACES OF INCARCERATION
- PEOPLE WITH MI MORE LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS THAN PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE
- SKILLFUL INTERVENTIONS AND OPTIONS FOR TREATMENT ARE MORE EFFECTIVE
- LESS FORCE AND MORE FOCUS ON DE-ESCALATION TECHNIQUES THAT MANAGE, NOT INFLAME THE CRISIS

POLICE CHALLENGES

- HOW TO IDENTIFY WHETHER A PERSON HAS A MENTAL ILLNESS
- HOW TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS
- HOW TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE INDIVIDUAL MAY BE GOING THROUGH
- LIMITED ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

COMMON DISORDERS THAT AFFECT BEHAVIOR

- MENTAL ILLNESS (VARIOUS TYPES)
- DEVELOPMENTAL AND INTELLECTUAL DISORDER
- NEUROLOGICAL AND MEDICAL
- SUBSTANCE RELATED CONDITIONS

- **CO-RESPONSE CLINICIANS ASSIST OFFICERS AND AID IN DIVERTING INDIVIDUALS INTO TREATMENT**
- **CLINICIANS CAN EVALUATE THE PERSON ON SITE IN THE COMMUNITY**

- **Mar. 2016-Dec. 31, 2016 173 people were seen**
- **Jan. 2017-Dec. 31, 2017 520 people were seen**
- **Jan. 2018-Dec. 31, 2018 640 people were seen**
- **With the expansion of a clinician in North and South Berkshire Jan. 2019- Present 654 people were seen**
- **Totaling 1,987. 79% have been diverted from the ER which equates to a \$ 3.6 Million Savings. Out of the 21% taken to the ER 90% were admitted**

THE ART OF UNDERSTANDING THROUGH
RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

KNOW YOUR ESP

- **ESP STANDS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE PROVIDER**
- **EVERY CITY/TOWN IN MASSACHUSETTS HAS A TEAM**
- **KNOW YOUR PROVIDER AND THEIR CONTACT NUMBER**
- **THEY RESPOND 24/7 AND CAN PARTNER WITH POLICE IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS.**

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QUESTIONS
