

Improving Police Response to Persons Affected by Mental Illness



Encounters Between Law Enforcement and People with Mental Illnesses

Officer encounters with people who have mental health disorders or who are going through mental health crises are occurring an estimated 7-10% of the time.

These encounters can be particularly challenging. They:

- require officers to have special training and skills,
- may depend on the availability of community mental health resources for successful outcomes,
- typically involve repeat contacts with the same individuals,
- are mostly in response to a person with mental illness committing a minor or “nuisance” offense, and
- occasionally involve volatile situations, risking the safety of all involved.



IACP’s **One Mind Campaign** focuses on uniting local communities, public safety organizations, and mental health agencies so that the three become “of one mind.” To join the campaign, law enforcement agencies must *pledge* to implement **four promising practices** over a 12-36 month time frame:

- Establish a clearly defined and sustainable **partnership** with one or more **community mental health** organizations.
- Develop and implement a **model policy** addressing police response to persons affected by mental illness.
- Train and certify 100 % of your agency’s sworn officers (and selected non-sworn staff, such as dispatchers) in **Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety**.
- Provide **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)** training to a minimum of 20 % of your agency’s sworn officers (and selected non-sworn staff, such as dispatchers).

490 agencies have already taken the Pledge!

Are you one of the 490?

For information on the One Mind Campaign, or resources to turn to after taking the pledge, go to:

<https://www.theiacp.org/projects/one-mind-campaign>

What everyone is saying about the One Mind Campaign

The reason why I think it’s worthwhile is because of the partnerships- it leads to better relationships with your valuable community.

- Chief Mike Crooke,
Cumberland Metro
Police Dept,
Cumberland, IN



My challenge is to protect and serve all the members of my community and to be aware of mental health conditions. If you truly respect your community, and want to serve your community, the One Mind Campaign is a small step toward that.

- Lieutenant Brian Gould,
Cheektowaga Police
Department, Cheektowaga, NY



Karen Maline
maline@theiacp.org



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation