



City Council Staff Communications Report

Subject: International Association of Chiefs of Police “One Mind Campaign Pledge”
Author: Chief Wade Carpenter
Department: Police
Date: April 18, 2019
Type of Item: Administrative

Background: The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has increased its focus on serving peoples experiencing mental health crisis/issues. As a way to shift the focus and training for officers, IACP developed the “One Mind Campaign” to help direct police departments in following best practices in this area. Park City Police Department worked on this project throughout 2018 and met the criteria for this pledge at the beginning of 2019. Because of Park City Council’s focus on mental health awareness and services, in addition to the critical priority of Social Equity, Park City Police Department determined to not only meet the standards for this international pledge but has exceeded the required training for officers.

Significance: Because of community barriers, people experiencing mental health crisis will often encounter law enforcement. This happens in a variety of ways, but these situations typically have the potential to become very agitated without proper response. This proper response involves a different skill set than other police encounters, and thus requires additional training and certification. This is significant because individuals experiencing severe mental illness are 16 times more likely to be killed in police encounters than other civilians. In addition, 63%-76% of inmates have met or meet criteria for a mental health disorder, which illustrates the prevalence of this issue of police encounter. With services inaccessible or difficult to access for some people experiencing mental health issues, police have become involved in 1 in 10 people’s pathway to mental healthcare. It is imperative that our officers understand how to effectively interact and de-escalate these situations in order to protect, serve and save lives.

Discussion: As part of this pledge, Park City Police Department developed and implemented a model policy to address officers’ interactions with those experiencing a mental health crisis. We trained 100% of our officers in Mental Health First Aid, which was a mental health awareness training. An additional requirement was to have at least 20% of officers trained in Crisis Intervention. Our department far exceeded this requirement; now, over 65% of our officers are Crisis Intervention Training Certified, which is a 40-hour intensive mental health intervention training. Included in this training are opportunities for officers to practically use their skills in scenario situations, so they can be given additional guidance by mental health professionals regarding their interactions. We will continue our relationship with Valley Behavioral Health as the County’s current contracted mental health provider, and will build a strong relationship

with the new contracted provider in the next few weeks. We will continue to train officers regarding this important issue.

Recommendation:

This is informational and no recommendation is proposed at this time.