

COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE March 16, 2016 MEETING

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

500 West Temple Street, Room 739

Los Angeles, California 90012

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT

Chair: Supervisor Hilda Solis, First District and Chair of the County Board of Supervisors

Jackie Lacey, District Attorney and Vice Chair of CCJCC

Reaver Bingham for Calvin Remington, Interim County Chief Probation Officer

James Brandlin, Supervising Judge, Criminal Division, Superior Court

Ronald Brown, County Public Defender

*Dardy Chen for Sachi Hamai, County Chief Executive Officer

*Charles Dempsey for Charlie Beck, Chief, Los Angeles Police Department

Beatriz Dieringer, California League of Cities

Peter Espinoza, Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court

Janice Fukai, County Alternate Public Defender

Scott Gordon, Assistant Supervising Judge, Criminal Division, Superior Court

*Kimberly Guillemet for Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

*Elena Halpert-Schult for Cynthia Banks, Director, County Department of Community & Senior Services

*Elena Halpert-Schult for Robin Toma, Executive Director, County Human Relations Commission

*David Herzog for Eileen Decker, U.S. Attorney

Christa Hohmann, Directing Attorney, Post Conviction Assistance Center

*Dan Jeffries for Mike Feuer, Los Angeles City Attorney

*Robert Leventer for Michael Levanas, Presiding Judge, Juvenile Superior Court

Karen Loquet for James Jones, Director, County Internal Services Department

Mary Marx for Robin Kay, Director, County Department of Mental Health

Jonathan McCaverty for Mary Wickham, Interim County Counsel

Terri McDonald for Jim McDonnell, Sheriff

Edward McIntyre for Rodney Gibson, Chair, County Quality & Productivity Commission

Don Meredith for Joe Gardner, President, County Probation Commission

Chris O'Quinn for Bill Siegl, Chief, Southern Division, California Highway Patrol

*Felicia Orozco for Miguel Santana, Los Angeles City Chief Administrative Officer

Sharon Papa, President, South Bay Police Chiefs Association

Earl Perkins for Michelle King, Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District

Robert Philibosian for Isaac Barcelona, Chair, County Economy and Efficiency Commission

*Susan Sullivan Pithey for Kamala Harris, California Attorney General

*Deirdre Robertson for Sherri Carter, Superior Court Executive Officer

Jim Smith, President, Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association

Edward Winter for Mark Fajardo, County Coroner – Medical Examiner

***Not a designated alternate**

I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Hilda Solis, County Supervisor, First District

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Chair of CCJCC.

Self-introductions followed.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Hilda Solis, County Supervisor, First District

There were no requests for revisions to the minutes of the February 17, 2016 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes.

ACTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2016 meeting was seconded and approved without objection.

III. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Jackie Lacey, Los Angeles County District Attorney

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey provided the committee with a background summary on efforts to provide mental health awareness and crisis intervention training for first responders.

A focus group was formed two years ago and tasked with evaluating the treatment of mentally ill individuals in the criminal justice system. It was determined that one of the top needs is to provide extensive training for law enforcement officers so that they are able to recognize mental health issues and provide crisis intervention where needed. While this training has been available for some, there are a number of law enforcement agencies in the county that have had no training in this area.

The District Attorney's Criminal Justice Institute worked in partnership with the Sheriff's Department, LAPD, and Police Chiefs' Association to create a training curriculum.

Ms. Lacey introduced Sandy Jo MacArthur of the District Attorney's Office to provide further details. Ms. MacArthur has been tasked with coordinating this effort.

Presentation From District Attorney's Office

Ms. MacArthur previously worked for the LAPD. She noted that about a third of the department's use of force cases involve interactions with individuals that have mental disorders.

The importance of this issue has been recognized at the state level through the recent enactment of a law (SB 29) that requires law enforcement officers to receive additional training in mental health awareness.

As the Sheriff's Department and LAPD are large entities, they each have their own internal training. For all other law enforcement agencies in the county, the training program that was developed consists of a 16-hour course.

Two pilot courses have already been held, and the first full course is currently in process. A schedule of training courses that are planned for the remainder of 2016 was distributed to those in attendance.

Over 100 officers have already been trained, and the course is in high demand.

In addition to law enforcement officers, training will also be provided to dispatchers as they are often in a position to conduct the initial assessment that is forwarded to the officers in the field.

The course is taught by a sworn member of a law enforcement agency as well as a Department of Mental Health (DMH) clinician.

While the course does present information through lectures, its emphasis is on an interactive approach to learning with scenarios that involve actual experiences that first responders are expected to handle in the field. The training also takes a holistic approach in looking at the multi-agency responses to crisis intervention.

Ms. MacArthur noted that the design of the course provides participants with an opportunity to provide useful information to one another by recounting their experiences and noting methods that worked and those that did not.

Participants are asked to provide their thoughts on the course both at the beginning and at the end. It has been found that many of the attendees have said that the training offers a valuable opportunity to learn more about mental illness and how to interact in a much more effective way.

At this time, it is expected that about 700 people will be attend the training course this year. More classes will be added to the existing schedule.

Deputy Chief Reaver Bingham of the Probation Department asked if there will be a train-the-trainer component that will allow agencies to conduct internal training.

Ms. MacArthur affirmed that the course envisions future train-the-trainer courses. She noted that one has already been held.

In response to a question concerning whether the course includes training for interaction with juveniles with mental health issues, she stated that the course

discussions do include topics involving interactions with not just minors who are underage, but very young children as well.

On a related note, the training course is available to officers from the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Police Department.

Another focus of the training course is to help attendees to view situations from the perspective of an individual who suffers from a mental illness. This includes the use of multi-sensory exercises.

Robert Philibosian of the County Economy and Efficiency Commission asked about how the training course is being publicized and noted that the schedule for the year does not include southeast locations.

Ms. MacArthur stated that a number of areas of the city and county will be covered by the internal departmental trainings that are offered by the LAPD and Sheriff's Department. These training courses are similar to the training course that she is coordinating. In addition, she stated that more law enforcement agencies will be included as the program is rolled out.

Chief Jim Smith of the Monterey Park Police Department, who serves as President of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association, noted that not all officers can receive immediate training due to the large number of law enforcement personnel in the county. Therefore, as large entities, the LAPD and Sheriff's Department provide internal training within their respective departments while this newly developed training course is being rolled out to the other law enforcement agencies in the county.

All of the independent cities in the county are involved in this program. However, there are logistical issues with scheduling courses at locations throughout the county in that facilities for presenting the training must be identified and reserved.

In addition to the 16-hour course for first responders, some individuals are attending a 40-hour course to become part of specialized units.

Chief Smith praised Ms. MacArthur's efforts in coordinating the implementation of this program.

Deputy Chief Bingham advised that the Probation Department is responsible for juvenile custodial operations in addition to its field operations. He suggested that this training should be included for officers involved with juvenile custodial operations.

Ms. MacArthur stated that the implementation of the program has revealed that there is a significant desire and need for this training.

Supervisor Solis agreed that including school police officers in the training is important and also suggested that Metro police should be included.

Ms. MacArthur stated that feedback from participants has been helpful and revisions are being made as needed. Overall, the responses have been very positive.

Chief Smith reported that the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has been very supportive in both the development of the training course and with its instruction components.

Supervisor Solis stated that there are many county community centers and facilities that could potentially be utilized if there is difficulty finding sites to host the training. She noted that the Board of Supervisors would be willing to facilitate this training by making these facilities available.

Presentation From LAPD

Detective Charles Dempsey of the LAPD appeared before CCJCC to provide an overview of the efforts of his department to provide mental health awareness training to their officers. Detective Dempsey is the Chief Trainer in the Mental Evaluation Unit of the LAPD.

He commended District Attorney Lacey and the county for seeking to provide a comprehensive approach throughout the region to address this issue. He noted that many mentally ill individuals are transient and don't reside in one city or area, so a uniform response model is needed among the various first responders in the county.

The LAPD provides four days (40 hours) of mental health awareness training to its officers. This has been in place for over a year and a half.

While there are specialized crisis intervention response teams, it is also important that all field officers receive training because any one of them may respond to a call that requires an ability to appropriately interact with a mentally ill person.

Teaching a core element to all first responders allows for a similar expectation and the ability to hold them accountable, but also provides them with the essential skills and knowledge to engage, de-escalate, and successfully manage the situations that they encounter. Ultimately, where appropriate, this can serve to divert individuals with chronic mental illness away from the criminal justice system.

Those officers that complete the training course can serve as instructors with other mental health awareness training programs. Detective Dempsey provides a list of these individuals to Ms. MacArthur for use in selecting trainers for the county program.

The LAPD offers an additional 8-hour custody mental health awareness course for its jailers and adult custody officers. It is anticipated that about 400 individuals will attend this in the coming months. The 911 operators also attend a similar 8-hour course.

Detective Dempsey noted that, with the standard training course, about half of the attendees are directed to take the course and about half have volunteered to do so. He has found that those directed to attend the training have expressed approval with the instruction and have stated that the course provides important information for them in performing their jobs.

The LAPD provides a Police Science Leadership course to officers that are nearing the end of the probationary period. All of these officers also attend the 4-day mental health awareness training course. In this way, the LAPD is ensuring that both tenured officers and younger probationary officers are receiving the same training.

To date, about 500 LAPD officers have received the mental health intervention training and about 1,000 officers have been trained through an older course in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). The goal is to provide training to the entire patrol force within the next three years.

Detective Dempsey emphasized that the course has support from the top of the organization, which serves to instill in the officers an expectation that resources will be made available and that an integrated service model will be in place to help divert mentally ill individuals away from the criminal justice system.

He also noted that the approach to training first responders that is being taken by the LAPD, Sheriff's Department, and other law enforcement agencies in the county can serve as an example for replication in other counties and jurisdictions.

Presentation From The Sheriff's Department

Chief Stephen Johnson of the Sheriff's Department appeared before CCJCC to provide an overview of the Sheriff's Department mental health awareness training program.

Upon taking office, Sheriff Jim McDonnell had a thorough review of the department conducted and one of his priorities was to focus on how deputies respond to persons that are mentally ill. This assessment included both field and custody operations, as well as a review of policies and procedures and access to resources.

As a result, at the Sheriff's direction, an initiative titled "Investment in Mental Health" began in December 2014. This included work with District Attorney Lacey on a comprehensive county plan to address mental health issues in the criminal justice system.

Chief Johnson introduced Captain John Roberts, who serves as the Project Manager of this initiative, Ms. Carol Lin, Director of Strategic Communications, and Dr. Steve Sultan, who has worked with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and others to develop a curriculum for crisis intervention training. These individuals were asked to provide further details about the initiative.

Captain Roberts reported that calls within the department for service involving mentally ill persons have increased by 55% since 2010. It appears that the current trend will continue for the foreseeable future.

To implement the department's initiative, an Investment in Mental Health Committee was formed which is comprised of stakeholders from both inside and outside of the Sheriff's Department. Department members include representatives from Patrol, Custody, the Psychological Services Bureau, and the Training Bureau. Outside members include representatives from the Department of Mental Health (DMH), National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and the Office of the Inspector General.

Steps that the committee has taken include the implementation of additional mental health training, revision of departmental policies and procedures, the creation of a mental health resource guide, and an increase in the number of Mental Evaluation Teams.

The goal of these steps is to improve interaction with mentally ill persons, enhance law enforcement services, reduce use of force incidents, and decrease liability.

In July 2015, the department added a 32-hour mental health training course for all deputies assigned to custody. By September 2019, it is anticipated that all custody deputies will have gone through that training.

Also in July 2015, a 3-hour basic training course and an 8-hour intermediate training course were created for patrol personnel. To date, almost 4,000 first responders have attended the basic training course and about 700 first responders have attended the intermediate training course. Captain Roberts noted that about 80% of the intermediate course attendees are Sheriff's Department personnel, while the remainder are from outside agencies.

Prior to these changes, deputies were only receiving 6 hours of mental health training at the academy and 2 hours for patrol.

This year, the academy is providing 15 hours of mental health training and all field training officers are now required to attend 8 hours of mental health training.

In addition, a 32-hour crisis intervention mental health training course has been created and the department hopes to have a minimum of 400 first responders attend each year. Over the course of a six year period, about 2,400 personnel will have attended the training, with about 90% being deputies and 10% being sergeants.

Dr. Steve Sultan, Director of the Psychological Services Bureau of the Sheriff's Department, was asked to speak about training that is offered. One of the duties of the Psychological Services Bureau is to provide operational support to Sheriff's Department personnel.

Dr. Sultan stated that the original model for crisis intervention was developed in 1988 (Memphis Model) and all subsequent trainings have a common focus on de-escalation of crisis situations.

Dealing with an individual that is having a crisis, whether that person is mentally ill nor not, requires a different approach than other situations that a peace officer may encounter. The training that is offered by the department is intended to provide first responders with the understanding and skills needed to diffuse these situations.

Dr. Sultan also noted the importance of training custody deputies given that many individuals receive mental health services in custody environments.

Chief Johnson reported that the Sheriff's Department policy on responding to calls involving mentally ill individuals has been revised to provide clear direction and to outline the responsibility of everyone involved in the call.

Ms. Lin referred to a pocket planner that was created by the Sheriff's Department that provides helpful resource information for both mentally ill individuals and their families. This may be especially useful for family members in situations where a mentally ill loved one does not qualify for a 5150 hold, but the family recognizes that help is needed for the individual.

Deputies in the field are given copies of these pocket planners to distribute to individuals that may be in need of this resource information.

Captain Roberts discussed evaluation teams that are deployed by the department. These consist of a Deputy Sheriff along with a DMH clinician. There are currently eight of these teams in operation, and the department hopes to eventually have 23 teams total.

ACTION: For information only.

IV. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FRAMEWORK FOR THE CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS FORENSIC POPULATION

Emily Bell, LCSW, Director, SSG Project 180

Due to time constraints, Supervisor Solis asked that this item be carried over to the next CCJCC meeting.

V. COUNTY JAIL SYSTEM UPDATE

Assistant Sheriff Terri McDonald, Sheriff's Department

Assistant Sheriff Terri McDonald provided an update on funding advocacy efforts to support improvements to jail facilities.

Representatives from the County CEO and the Sheriff's Department recently met with California Department of Finance representatives as part of continuing discussions to determine ways in which the state could assist the county in financing the costs of a replacement facility for the Mens Central Jail.

There is no specific commitment from the state at this time, but discussions continue.

Assistant Sheriff McDonald will be retiring shortly. Her replacement over Custody Operations will be Kelly Harrington, who was selected for the position following a nationwide search.

Assistant Sheriff McDonald thanked the members of this committee for their cooperation in working with her during her years with the Sheriff's Department. She stated that this has been a profound experience for her both professionally and personally.

Supervisor Solis thanked Assistant Sheriff McDonald for her service to the county and presented her with a county scroll acknowledging her for her hard work and dedication to the Sheriff's Department, the County of Los Angeles, and the residents of this community.

ACTION: For information only.

VI. OTHER MATTERS / PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 4, 2016. All remaining CCJCC meetings in 2016 will be held on the first Wednesday of the month.