



A Statewide and Holistic Approach to Trauma Prevention and Intervention Trauma-Informed Policing

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Chair Police and Community Subcommittee

LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE



Police and Community Subcommittee

Mission

- Enhance law enforcement through an understanding of trauma-informed policies and practices.
- The committee includes law enforcement officials and others in academia from around Pennsylvania.
- Series of recommendations that we believe will improve the health, wellness, and resiliency of law enforcement and the relationship between police and the people they serve.
- This is the first step in creating trauma-informed policing systems across Pennsylvania.



Police and Community Subcommittee

Subcommittee Membership:

Chair: Dennis L. Marsili, New Kensington PD (Retired)

Co-Chair: Kenneth Quick, NYPD (Retired), Professor Desales University

Randy Cox, Chief Somerset Boro PD

Harrison Dillard, Chief Moravian Univ. PD

Michelle Kott, Chief Bethlehem PD

Glenn Stoltz, Lieutenant City of Lancaster PD

Rev. Paul Abernathy, Neighborhood Resiliency Project Pittsburgh

Kevin Bethel, Commissioner Philadelphia PD

Altovise Love-Craighead, Inspector Philadelphia PD (Retired)

Meagan Corrado, Professor West Chester Univ. Of PA

Ben Iobst, Allentown PD (Retired)

Bobby Tanyer, Westmoreland County Behavioral Hlth & Developmental Services Office

Aaron Allen, Pennsylvania State Police Heritage Affairs Section

Lavonnie Bickerstaff, Asst. Chief Pittsburgh PD (Retired)

Chuck Baile, Pennsylvania FOP, PSP (Retired)



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Recommendations:

- A. Training***
- B. Law Enforcement Self-care***
- C. Enhance Community-Police Relations**
- D. Serving Vulnerable Communities**
- E. Law Enforcement Trauma-Informed Programs***
- F. Legislation and Policies**



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Training Recommendation:

In accordance with PA Act 59 of 2020, all law enforcement, including all commanders, officers, and all staff, should receive training on trauma, vicarious trauma, and trauma-informed policing.



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Training Recommendations:

- 1. General Training – ACEs and Officer resilience**
- 2. Children's Exposure to Violence & Trauma – DOJ
Police Response to Children Exposed to Violence
Toolkit**
- 3. 911 Operators – Behavioral Hlth. Screening questions
and CIT**
- 4. Addiction – Relationship between trauma and
addiction**
- 5. Victim & Witness Issues – Trauma Informed
Interviewing techniques**



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Law Enforcement Self-care Recommendation:

One study states that the average police officer employed for 30 to 35 years is “estimated . . . [to] be exposed to at least 900 potentially traumatic incidents over the course of their career.”

Because of this exposure officers may experience burnout, compassion fatigue, and vicarious trauma. Police also experience high levels of suicidality and suicide.



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Law Enforcement Self-care Recommendations:

- 1. All law enforcement agencies should designate a “Resiliency Program Officer”**
- 2. Establish baseline data to measure officer health and wellness to determine effectiveness of programs.**
- 3. Offer third-party counseling services to all officers and staff, especially following a traumatic incident.**



Law Enforcement Trauma Programs

Law Enforcement Trauma-informed Programs:

Evidence-based trauma-informed programs will be identified and implemented.



Law Enforcement Trauma-Informed Programs

Law Enforcement Trauma-informed Programs Recommendations:

- 1. Pre-Arrest Diversion Programs – to reduce the school to prison pipeline.**
- 2. Handle With Care – Prevent re-traumatizing children in school after being expose to a traumatic incident outside of school.**
- 3. Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative (LETI) - Connecting individuals suffering with addiction with treatment options.**



Trauma-Informed Criminal Justice System

The Police and Community Subcommittee next steps:

- 1. Collaborate with other subcommittees**
- 2. Implementation of recommendations**
- 3. Evaluate effectiveness of new initiatives**
- 4. Continue HEALPA movement and development of initiatives throughout Pennsylvania**

