

COVID-19 Response

Team Two Trainings FY20 Outcomes

- 140 participants
- 45 VCP agency staff
- All 10 DAs
- Resulting in daily collaboration
- Trainings now virtual due to COVID

The strong relationships between Emergency Services Teams and law enforcement agencies has been enhanced since 2013 by Team Two, a training curriculum where law enforcement and mental health crisis workers collaborate on responding to a mental health crisis.

Team Two uses joint scenario-based trainings conducted in all regions of the state. Strong collaborative responses are critical in complex cases involving both mental health and public safety risks.

The COVID-19 pandemic required Team Two to pivot to trainings online, rather than in person. Video from police body cameras from incidents involving mentally ill individuals are used in place of written scenarios. The legal presentation includes COVID-19 updates on services provided by local VCP network agencies. Registration for the trainings increased in the third quarter compared to the previous year.

Promoting Public Safety: Collaborations with Law Enforcement

WHAT WE DO

Across Vermont, there is a continuum of collaboration to respond to the high number of law enforcement calls (up to 70%) related to mental health and/or substance use disorders. Partnerships range from day-to-day coordination and collaboration, to co-location of positions within law enforcement, to proactive community outreach programs. Services include: outreach, crisis intervention and de-escalation, screening for inpatient care, support for family crises, overdose response, DCF support and truancy intervention, support with homelessness and housing, case management, and referral to services and benefits.

IMPACT

There are six VCP network agencies with over 14 FTEs currently involved in mental health and law enforcement collaborations with local police, state police and sheriff's offices. The state budget calls for expansion of these services to seven new State Police Barracks. Mobile crisis services of all designated agencies work closely with law enforcement to respond to people in mental health crisis.

Mental Health and Law Enforcement Collaborations achieve:

- Reduced use of law enforcement
- Reduced arrests
- Reduced incarceration
- Increased access to mental health and community resources
- Reduced use of hospital emergency departments and inpatient care
- Reduced response time
- Increased access to mental health, substance use disorder services

St Albans service dog strengthens outreach by State Police and NCSS mental health worker.

