

COVID-19 Response

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 on-line, rather than in person. Video from police body cameras from incidents involving individuals with mental illness 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 by 75 people compared to the previous year.

Team Two Trainings FY21 Outcomes

- 215 Participants
- 45 VCP Agency Staff
 - All 10 DAs
- 148 Law Enforcement Officers
 - 22 Dispatchers, Hospital Staff and Others
- Trainings in virtual due to COVID

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

All 10 VCP network agencies who are designated mental health agencies are currently involved in mental health and law enforcement collaborations with local police, state police and sheriff's offices. The FY22 state budget expanded collaborations to all 10 State Police Barracks. Mobile crisis services of the designated agencies work closely with law enforcement to address 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



ERNIE & JOE: CRISIS COPS a documentary by Jenifer McShane virtual screenings and panel discussion were jointly presented by NAMI-VT and VCP's Team Two for three Vermont communities