



# Promoting Public Safety: Collaborations with Law Enforcement



## Team Two

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 training conducted in all regions of the state. Strong collaborative responses are critical in complex cases involving both mental health and public safety risks. Video from police body cameras from incidents involving individuals with mental illness are used in place of written scenarios.

In FY22 142 people received Team Two Training of which 65 were law enforcement officers, 47 were crisis workers and 30 were: dispatchers, state's attorneys, state staff, or other police staff. As the spread of Covid waned, training returned to in-person rather than the virtually format employed during the pandemic. All designated agencies attended training.

The implementation on October 1, 2021 of the statewide Use of Force policy led to focusing training on scenarios where police likely would not respond.

In FY 2022, Team Two reached national audiences via a presentation to an audience of 350 participants in a webinar sponsored by the New England State Police Information Network and on a panel on a webinar for the Council of State Governments for the Rural and Small Law Enforcement Focus Group. Other training including five Act 80 training sessions.

## 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



Team Two Training in action