



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

Police Officer Standards and Training Council
Connecticut Police Academy

General Notice 15-01

TO: Chief Law Enforcement Officers
Training Officers/Supervisors/Divisions
POSTC Basic Recruit Training Academy Directors/Assistant Directors
CSP Resident State Troopers/Supervisors
Protective Services

FM: Thomas E. Flaherty
Police Academy Administrator

RE: **Requirements of Public Act 14-217, Section 46**
Mandatory Training Regarding Handling Incidents Involving Individuals
Affected with a Serious Mental Illness

Effective October 1, 2014, Public Act 14-217, Section 46 mandates that (1) Each police basic training program conducted or administered by the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, the Police Officer Standards and Training Council established under Section 7-294b (CGS), or a municipal police department in the State shall include a course on handling incidents involving an individual affected with a serious mental illness and (2) Each review training program conducted by such agencies shall make provisions for such a course.

Therefore effective October 1, 2014, each probationary officer candidate (recruit) attending any POSTC-basic police recruit training academy shall receive training on handling incidents involving an individual affected with a serious mental illness and all certified police officers as a condition of future recertification shall receive training on handling incident involving an individual affected with a serious mental illness.

Although the state legislature did not define "serious mental illnesses" generally accepted serious mental illnesses include, but are not limited to: Schizophrenia, Paranoia and other psychotic disorders, Bipolar disorders (hypomanic, manic, depressive and mixed), Major depressive disorders, Panic disorders, Dissociative disorders, Posttraumatic Stress disorders, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity disorders (ADD/ADHD), Autism Spectrum disorders, Alzheimer's Dementia disorders, etc.

In both instances (recruit and recertification training) merely defining the serious mental illness does not meet the statute, it is to determine the best practice for the recruit/certified officer to handle the person with the respective disorder if confronted in the field.

For the training officers/supervisors: Training in this mandated course should be documented in the existing Area 410 Law Enforcement and Citizens with Special Needs. In addition, the mental illness training hours may be incorporated in the currently mandated three (3) hour requirement for the Area 400 Human Relations training, thus there is no addition to the minimum sixty (60) hours (28 hours mandated, 32 hours electives) of certified review training.

To facilitate this training, the POSTC Field Services Division will be hosting four (4) Police Response to Handling Individuals with Mental Illness (Train-the-Trainer) sessions beginning on April 7, 2015. Instruction will be provided by the Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement, Inc. We encourage all departments to take advantage of this training. For more details, please view the course announcements on our website www.ct.gov/post under the list of new in-service training courses.

Should you have any questions please contact Compliance/Certification Officer William E. Klein at (203) 427-2607 or William.Klein@ct.gov