



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES and PUBLIC PROTECTION
Police Officer Standards and Training Council
Connecticut Police Academy

To: Connecticut Chiefs of Police
Connecticut Police Training Officers
Connecticut State Police Resident Troopers
Connecticut State Police Training Academy

From: William E. Tanner, III
Field Services Training Division

Date: November 27, 2023

Subject: **Responding to Situations Involving People with Mental Illness**

Tuition: **No Cost**

COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Police Officer Standards and Training Council's Field Services Training Division, in cooperation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), is offering a one-day training seminar titled **"Responding to Situations Involving People with Mental Illness."** Instruction will be provided by trainers from DMHAS. This course is scheduled for **Thursday, March 7, 2024**, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Connecticut Police Academy, 285 Preston Avenue, Meriden, CT.

The training will enhance an officer's ability to deal with both adults and juveniles who are frustrated or angry and who might be escalating toward dangerous behaviors. Participants will learn about behavioral symptoms and how to assess and intervene effectively in situations involving people with mental illness. The presentation will use lecture, videos, a simulated voice hearing (Auditory hallucinations) experience, and class discussions. It is specifically designed for first responders without previous crisis or hostage negotiation training, or Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trained officers. This course is not a substitute for officers considering advanced training as a CIT officer.

This presentation has the following objectives:

- Recognize the behavioral signs and symptoms of major mental illness and how concurrent substance abuse impacts behavior
- Recognize the names of commonly used psychiatric medications and describe what they are used for

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- Perform an on-scene assessment to determine if (a) mental illness is a factor in the incident and (b) how to determine what intervention to use
- Stabilize the scene and effectively communicate using verbal intervention skills including conflict resolution and verbal de-escalation
- Obtain emergency mental health consultation and behavioral health information (According to CGS) from DMHAS
- Conduct a suicide screening and determine actions to ensure safety
- Accurately document using Police Emergency Examination form
- Describe the experience of hearing voices that are distressing (Auditory hallucinations) through a simulated exercise and identify effective interventions for people who hear voices

The class is limited to thirty-five (35) attendees. Please complete a registration form for each attendee from the web and email it to William Tanner at william.tanner@ct.gov **no later than close of business, Thursday, February 15, 2024**. If you have any questions, please contact the Field Services Division at 203-427-2625.

Students successfully completing the course will receive Review Training Credit in the following area(s):

- Area 410 Law Enforcement & Citizens with Special Needs (5 hours)

There is no tuition for this course. Lunch may be purchased at local restaurants. The uniform Dress Code for POST In-Service training (General Notice 23-02) will be in effect. We ask that all training supervisors inform assigned personnel that they are required to dress accordingly.

DISCLAIMER: The Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) makes every effort, within its ability and resources, to provide the highest quality, most relevant in-service training programs available at minimum cost to all Connecticut police officers and agencies. However, POSTC does not provide legal advice, and does not endorse the accuracy or completeness of specific in-service training programs provided by each of its many contractors and training providers. The materials and opinions of individual providers offered during the course of in-service training are those of the instructor alone, and do not necessarily represent the position of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council or the State of Connecticut. Given the multitude of disparate factual scenarios with which law enforcement personnel are presented in the discharge of their official duties, students and sponsoring agencies are strongly advised and encouraged to seek the advice and counsel of their own legal advisors before implementing concepts or adopting specific measures discussed or recommended during in-service training sessions.

Training on the Web: www.ct.gov/POST