

# Connecticut General Assembly

## Improving Police Interactions with The Disability Community Subcommittee Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Jon Slifka, Chairperson



c/o Judiciary Committee, Room 2500  
Legislative Office Building  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Ct 06106

### Minutes

Tuesday, September 22nd, 2020

11:00 a.m., via Zoom

*Attendees: Jon Slifka (Chair), Alvin Chege, Marc Pelka, Chief Tom Kulhawik, Doris Maldonado, Rayla Mattson*

*Others: Colleen Hajdasz (interpreter), Ken Barone, Deb Blanchard, Andrew Clark, Kelan Lyons (CT Mirror), Rod O'Connor*

*Presenter: Karen Boivert (POSTC)*

- I.** Convene meeting and welcome
  - a. *Chair Slifka convened the meeting at 11:04am*
- II.** Introduction of Members
  - a. *Members introduced themselves*
- III.** Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting
  - a. *Will put on agenda for next meeting.*
- IV.** Presentation on Current Police Trainings/Practices
  - a. Karen Boivert: Presenter
    - i. *Ms. Boisvert presented on a series of four documents previously shared with subcommittee members. She gave an overview of both basic and in-service training offerings focused on the disability community.*
- V.** Questions and Discussion on Presentation
  - a. *Ms. Maldonado offered some suggestions as to how to improve training. She offered free resources from UCONN that are designed to assist individuals who have interactions with the disability community. Mr. Chege asked if any part of the training addresses a deaf person who happens to be on the spectrum too? How can*

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*police possibly be trained for all circumstances they may face? The academic world is ready to provide classes to police on the deaf community. Also, is there any way to bring ASL interpreters to police training? Mr. Chege would like to be a liaison for this if that would be accepted. Ms. Mattson – is this coordinated at all with the public school system? A: not in basic training. Maybe in in-service. They do train armed security in school systems. Is in-service the same as continuing ed?: A: Yes. (Every 3 years need to show 60 hrs of in-service training). What about other types of training? ADD as an example? A: if there is a need, then we should look at that with basic training. For in-service, more at the discretion of departments. But these goals and objectives are being modified, and she is taking notes. Mr. Pelka: Does POSTC have preferred trainers that are recommended to departments (i.e. those that have positive reviews, updated w/evidence-based practices)? For someone seeking ASL services w/police, what is the typical practice (i.e. CT Relay phone line)? A: Yes, there is a preferred list. All instructors must be certified in the topic they are presenting (bio, lesson plan, field experience, etc.) Depending on the level of certification they receive, there are requirements for continued certification. This information is available on the POSTC website. Monitored and audited on a regular basis to ensure compliance. As to second question, not sure. Mr. Chege: per the CT Relay line and police tools for this community. It is important that these are available to prevent a situation from unnecessarily escalation. Would like this inserted in goals. Chair Slifka: with respect to current training, is the instruction given from individuals/organizations from the disability community? Is there any follow up done after situations occur w/disability community? A: Doesn't believe DMHAS brings in other organizations for basic training. For in-service, she knows of some instances. They did develop a train the trainer program. As for follow-up, evaluations are sent out after the training. No follow up in the field. Ms. Maldonado: are there youth and/or consumer voices present in these trainings? This would help officers. There are organizations that can help. Mr. Chege: What is the length of the training in total? A: 921 hours. Equivalent to about 6 months of curriculum in an academic environment. Field training is next: 400 hours – or approximately 3 months. So about 9 months total. Once an officer is certified, there are requirements for training to be re-certified. Also, Field Training Officers have to have 3 years of experience in the field, be in good standing and be certified.*

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- VI.** Discussion on Next Steps
- a. Chair Slifka would suggest getting representation from various disability communities to present to the subcommittee (Autism, Indivisible. He's had several organizations reach out to ask to participate. Autism seems like a natural starting point, as it has received the greatest attention in our conversations thus far. Ms. Maldonado suggested the CT Developmental Disabilities Council.*
- VII.** Announcement of time and date of next meeting
- a. Two weeks from today at 11am – October 6, 2020.*
- VIII.** Adjournment