

# Connecticut General Assembly

## Police Transparency & Accountability Task Force

Jon Slifka, Chairperson



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

### Improving Police Interactions with the Disability Community Subcommittee

#### Minutes

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

11:00 a.m., via Zoom

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

*Others: Christine(ASL interpreter), Deb Blanchard, Ken Barone, Andrew Clark, Makenzie Ozycz, Mary Kate Mason, Peter Mason, Meghan Peterson, Rod O'Connor, Krista Ostaszewski,*

*Presenters: Nate Calixto (DSS) Nydia Rios-Benitez (DMHAS) Peter Tolisano (DDS)*

- I.** Convene meeting and welcome
  - a. *Chair Slifka convened the meeting at 11:05am*
- II.** Introduction of Members
  - a. *At the request of Chair Slifka, members, guests, and presenters introduced themselves.*
- III.** Review of Minutes from 11-03-20 Meeting
  - a. *Minutes from 11.3.20 meeting were approved via voice note.*
- IV.** Presentation from CT State Agencies (DSS, DMHAS, DDS)
  - a. *Presentations began with the DSS, prepared by Nathaniel Calixto from the DSS Autism Division. Presentation began with how to access the waiver from DDS as a person on the autism spectrum, a list of services and supports available under the waiver was then provided. Mr. Calixto then shifted perspective to interaction between law enforcement and individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Data was reviewed to show that there are a number of cases where police intervention was handled negatively towards a person with autism spectrum disorder. Mr. Calixto reviewed different training tactics that could help police officers deescalate a situation when handling a person with autism spectrum disorder, guides to these trainings were also shared. Mr. Calixto detailed many physical tips when having to restrain an individual with autism spectrum disorder. Information on The Blue*

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*Envelope was provided, inquiring officers training on this and other resources. Contact information & the online resource library were shared before the closing of the presentation.*

- b. The next presentation was from the DMHAS, prepared by Nydia Rios-Benitez regarding the Mobile Response Service System. The presentation followed a discussion outline: (1)Description of Mobile Crisis Services, (2) Description of ACTION Line Services, (3)Crisis Intervention Teams & Training, (4)Crisis Call Data, (5)Mobile Crisis and Law Enforcement, (6)Learning Experiences, and (7)Next Steps.*
- c. The final presentation was from DDS, prepared by Peter Tolisano. The presentation began with an (1)Overview of DDS, information on (2)Eligibility for DDS Services, information regarding (3)Current Initiatives with Police & First Responders, and finished with (4)Next Steps. DDS outlines that they hope to continue trainings with multiple outlets (CABLE, Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services for Children and Adolescents, and municipalities directly) after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year.*

### V. Discussion on Next Steps

- a. Questions & Discussion for DDS: Ms. Maldonado asked for clarification on how they are providing services to diverse communities. Mr. Calixto responded that they provide presentations to various schools and agencies upon request. Ms. Mattson asked for information on ID cards and The Blue Envelope, and how police officers are aware of these resources. Mr. Calixto responded he will look into this information. Chief Kulhawik responded that the Norwalk police department is aware of these resources as of last January.*
- b. Questions & Discussion for DMHAS: Ms. Maldonado asked if trainings can be made accessible to frontliners. Ms. Rios-Benitez responded that trainings are voluntary and based on interest.*
- c. Questions & Discussion for DDS: Ms. Maldonado asked if there are any upcoming updates. Mr. Tolisano responded that the last update is less than one year old.*

### VI. Announcement of time and date of next meetings

- a. December 8, 2020 11am via Zoom*

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### VII. Adjournment

*a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm*

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