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**Committee Meeting Minutes  
Police Interactions Committee**

**Protection of Individuals with Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System Task Force**

**Conducted via WebEx Pursuant to  
Executive Orders 2020-07 and 2020-18**

**Minutes**

Task Force Member Attendees: Leigh Richie, Kathleen Bankhead, Bianca Camargo, Kathy Hunt-Muse, Darlene Perry, John Keigher, Fred Chinn, Lt. Col. Akil Smith

Not present: Kimberly Johnson-Evans

1. Call to order
  - Meeting was called to Order at 11:03 am – Leigh Richie, Member and Committee Chair
  - Roll Call completed with certification of number of members to constitute a quorum
2. Approval of March 15, 2021 meeting minutes
  - Motion to approve the minutes made by Fred Chinn, Member
  - Second of the Motion made by Lt. Col Akil Smith
  - Ayes have it and 0 Nays
3. Guest Speakers:
  - Penny Gates gave an extensive presentation regarding her child and her family’s experience with the criminal justice system from first engagement with local law enforcement through the processes of interrogation, testing for disability, pre-trial, court and more.
  - There was follow-up from Leigh Richie and opening the floor for questions
    - If the speaker was to make policy recommendation for the State, what could improve at the State level to improve the way the police interacts with persons with disabilities specifically DD/IDD citizens? What would you prioritize as changes?
  - Penny Gates gave a Wish List of priorities she would target:
    - Specialized courts
    - Database available to law enforcement
    - Further education for students with disabilities
    - Trainings
    - Response teams
    - Advocacy for the rights of persons as juveniles

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**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

160 N. LaSalle Street • Suite S-500 • Chicago, IL 60601-3115 • (312) 793-5900 • Fax (312) 793-4311  
401 S Spring Street • 521 Stratton • Springfield, IL 62706 • (217) 785-1540 • Fax (217) 524-0088  
Statewide Toll Free Intake (866) 274-8023 • Statewide TTY (866) 333-3362

- Prevention
- Dismissal or diversion
- There was a question about accommodations provided while in jail
- What was Penny's child's age at the time of the incident?
  - Penny answered both fully and with background information
- What accommodations did the system fail to provide?
  - Advocacy at the time of interrogation, gave a list of what deficiencies were prohibitive in the child's ability to understand and interact. There needs to be established advocacy in place during police interactions.
- Question about which jurisdiction of police they interacted with local police or sheriff?
  - Both
- Question about what county this occurred in and follow-up regarding parent being allowed to interact and tell the police that the child had a disability?
  - Lake County
  - Father was not allowed to interact though he tried to advocate on the child's behalf
  - Continued follow up from committee members
- Question about interrogation and a parent being allowed in
- Was the child put on probation, etc.
  - Cash bail made after four (4) days (arrest occurred on a Friday afternoon)
  - Further statements regarding the process and how it occurs in another county

b. Carol Nesteikis gave introductory remarks and indicated that her child and family's story mirrors that of Penny Gates. She then proceeded to give background on her child, their disabilities and their interaction with the criminal justice system starting with Oak Forest Police Department on a Friday and Cook County Jail on a Saturday morning.

- Carol indicated that her story is widely circulated and can be found on LRIDD.org
- Carol has done extensive follow-up with the local police department over the years and most recently with the installation of a new police chief who has agreed to come talk to the committee if requested.
- Stands firm that there needs to be advocacy available for persons with disabilities out the gates. She contacted her attorneys to bring the child to the station, thereby rendering legal aid during interrogation, etc.
- Agrees with the recommendations Penny Gates made on her wish list.
- Leigh Richie opened the floor for additional questions of the speaker
- Question asked about an advocate? What type of individual does the speaker think should be included in the process?
  - Carol provided information on her thoughts regarding a trained civilian, not an officer be a part of the process
  - Contends that parents should also be allowed to be involved for persons with disabilities because they are their first and continuing advocate
- Both speakers were thanked for their time and invited to stay on the meeting if they liked or had the time available (both speakers opted to stay)

c. ILETSB Representatives

- John Keigher is the executive director of ILETSB, and he introduced Jennifer Woolridge as a speaker. She is the manager of special programs and the statewide CIT coordinator
- Mark Benson, licensed therapist who works in the Bloomington/Normal area and does trainings
- John gave an overview and background of CIT (been around 30 years but has been used in IL for about 15 years). Teaches mental health responses and there is a disability component as well. This is a week-long program that officers can opt to take. IL has trained over 11,000 officers with 9500 still active. 24% of officers are involved.

- John gave background on requirements for an officer to take the training. He also gave background on the CAHOOTS model and how it works. CAHOOTS incorporates some CIT components. Rockford and Chicago are doing pilot programs. Mark has experience with the model.
- Mark gave more background on the CAHOOT's model and Mobile Crisis work. Indicated a lot of the work is the follow-up to the initial police interactions. Program also reaches out to citizens who have called 911 several times in a calendar year. Mark also gave information on how the program helps for citizens leaving the hospital and going back into the community (step down program).
- Mark gave the pros of using this model in both instances and how it provides advocacy in the community as well by increasing relationships with those persons in crisis.
- Described how the officers did not get an opportunity to see what happened to the person after their interaction with local law enforcement
- John indicated that the board is very involved with CIT and learning more about CAHOOTS
- Board hosting a conference to present both the CIT and CAHOOTS program with the communities
- Key components: Resources, dispatch training and knowledge to dispatch these services, funding (may be able to be charged to Medicaid/Medicare)
- John Keigher reaffirmed the boards commitment to law enforcement training and next steps as data from research becomes more available to them.
- Question offered by member, Kathy Hunt-Muse for Mark
  - Is the step-down follow-up program a part of CAHOOTS or is it a separate program?
- Mark gave follow-up information to answer the question and spoke about model use and Rosecrance and Swedish Hospital
- Another question offered by Kathy Hunt-Muse- Is law enforcement directly connected?
- Mark gave information for both related to how law enforcement gets involved
- Leigh asked for any other questions and then offered remarks on the presentation including how informative it was
- Kathy Hunt-Muse asked how the program deals with the eventuality that what may be one need is really another like a drug induced issue.
- Mark provided information on de-escalation and gave examples related to co-responder models
- Leigh asked about the CIT program and number of officers trained versus officers what have elected not to. What do they think needs to happen to get more officers to register for CIT training?
- John Keigher responded giving information that under the Memphis program they hope to have 25% of each program trained giving at least one officer per shift being CIT trained. They are working toward reaching that goal. They are also incorporation 40 hours of CIT training in their basic curriculum.
- Leigh asked for more information on the basic training that officers receive in the field.
- John indicated the basic academy is a 16-week program and there are modules built in concerning interactions and engagement with persons with disabilities. In-service ADA training has increased as well, which is the optional further training for veteran officers.
- Fred Chinn asked if the board is still working on a dispatch training for CIT
- John indicated that they have expanded other trainings including one for dispatchers. There is a lot of development in the dispatch world. There are variations in criteria for dispatch centers
- Jennifer Woolridge indicated that there is an 8-hour certified training for dispatch
- Leigh Richie asked more about the CAHOOTS model and the extent of the training that dispatchers get under the CAHOOTS model
- John indicated there were discussions about earmarking funding toward CAHOOTS training, but various counties were/are at various stages of their dispatch centers

- Leigh Richie thanked the speakers for their time
4. Follow up discussion of issues affecting adults and juveniles with disabilities with respect to their involvement with the police, including, but not limited to, identification of relevant materials/data and discussion of potential solutions
    - a. Begin identifying issues and recommendations to include in Task Force report
      - Leigh Richie opened the floor for comments and ideas surrounding recommendations
      - Kathleen Bankhead suggested that the committee should start working on a framework of recommendations then look for gaps
      - John Keigher indicated that the presentations today showed that there is a need to look at the protection of juveniles with disabilities and recommended looking at laws and policies. Asked Fred Chinn if he saw a path forward
      - Fred Chinn agreed
      - Bianca Camargo agreed and indicated that today's presentations left her a bit overwhelmed but knowing that there is a need. She gave background on cases that she has encountered
      - Kathy Hunt-Muse echoed the thoughts of other members and gave a framework of what she has heard and jotted down.
5. Next Steps/Assignments
    - Leigh Richie did a wrap up of what the committee spoke about and what they were looking for to prepare for the next meeting
    - Bianca Camargo volunteered to look at more information regarding recommendations
    - John Keigher indicated if there are follow-up questions
    - Kathy Hunt-Muse indicated she has been having IT issues at work so her capacity is low at the moment, but will be ready to re-engage after her issues are fixed
    - Leigh asked when the committee would like to meet again and offered information on when the full report is due. Suggested sending a Doodle Poll to look at a month from the date of the meeting
6. Public Comment
    - None
7. Adjournment
    - Fred Chinn moves to adjourn the meeting
    - Kathleen Bankhead Seconded the Motion
    - Ayes have it and the meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm