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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, Kathryn Hunt-Must, Bianca Carmago, Kathleen Bankhead, Darlene Perry, John Keigher, Fred Chinn and Lt. Col. Akil Smith

Not present: Kimberly Johnson-Evans

1. Call to order
  - Meeting was called to Order at 1:04 pm – Leigh Richie, Member
  - Roll Call completed with certification of number of members to constitute a quorum
2. Election of committee chairperson
  - Leigh Richie gauged interest in the committee chair role
  - Fred Chinn nominated Leigh Richie
  - Darlene Perry Seconded the Motion
  - After member vote, Leigh Richie becomes the Police Interactions Committee Chair
3. Discussion of issues affecting adults and juveniles with disabilities (including physical, mental health, intellectual, developmental disabilities) with respect to their involvement with the police, including, but not limited to, identification of relevant materials/data and discussion of potential solutions (e.g. policies, procedures legislation)
  - Introductory remarks were offered by Leigh Richie
  - Kathryn Hunt-Muse spoke about seeking solutions related to the MH area especially in relation to negative interactions with the police i.e. diversion, special training and more. Spoke about the need to have blended solutions
  - Darlene Perry pondered if the group should outline what the unique issues are with relation to juveniles and adults connecting to solutions to the areas the committee wants to address. She proceeded to give some background information and examples as well as queried about the way in which law enforcement interacts with persons with disabilities
  - Leigh Richie indicated that this was important and asked if there were specific issues that needed to be raised by the committee.

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- Lt. Col. Akil Smith spoke about his background in law enforcement which spans over twenty-five years and differences in approach in the field. An officer works to determine if the person they are encountering is dealing with a mental health need or their need is related to drug induced interactions. Dispatch gets information and sometimes however that transmission comes across translates to how the LEO approaches the scene. Lt. Col. Smith stressed that when an officer arrives at a scene, they do an immediate safety assessment for themselves (it is an expectation to make it home each night), for the public and for the person in distress. Lt. Col. Smith spoke further about training for LEO's and what it encompasses. He stressed that there are many variables and that there is a difference between training and implementation of training.
- Leigh Richie asked a clarifying question about the role of dispatch, their training with relation to calls with identified persons with disabilities and what information is helpful for dispatch to get from callers
- Lt. Col. Smith responded with an example related to calls for violent issues. In cases of suicide the person may be attempting suicide by cop and in those instances often that person typically does not care about the safety of others. They may have a weapon. When advocates and elected officials talk about social workers being on the scene it is important for people to remember that those social workers do not show or engage until the scene is secure and the police are the ones entrusted with ensuring the scene is secure for available additional resources to do the work they are asked to do. Lt. Col. Smith acknowledged that it may be helpful for dispatch to have additional training because how the call comes out is often seen as gospel and given more information it may help law enforcement officers in their preparation for what they are responding to. If a call comes out as everything is good then that is how we approach the call, however if we get a call that there are guns, violence and felonious activities involved, law enforcement is trained to come in "hot."  
Spoke about a bill that speaks to law enforcement and the warrior mindset though law enforcement is not supposed to be at war.
- Kathy Hunt-Muse queried who runs dispatch and Lt. Col. Smith indicated that it varies around the state
- Darlene Perry asked about police arrival on a scene and what is immediately noticed and what can be misconstrued as risk especially in relation to persons with disabilities. Persons with disabilities can often have behaviors that can be misinterpreted as defiance or not following instructions
- Lt. Col. Smith spoke about what is learned in training, what the typical LEO mindset is and the cynicism that comes along with working in the field. He also spoke on matters related to assessing the situation and determining if there is an impairment. Lt. Col. Smith stressed again that the way they approach a scene comes from what is relayed to dispatch
- Lt. Col. Smith asked John Keigher about what he sees in ILSBE
- Kathy Hunt-Muse asked a question about the scope of law enforcement and what the committee should be looking at. She indicated that though the committee has the benefit of ISP personnel in Lt. Col. Smith, it would be helpful to know what is occurring in other layers of policing or is that too broad?
- Leigh Richie indicated she did not think it was too broad to look at training at other LEO municipalities.
- Fred Chinn talked about the difference in resources in Southern IL. He is a CIT trained as well as some of the deputies. Stressed the need for more resources throughout the state particularly downstate.
- Task force Administrator Gia Orr gave the committee information related to what the CJ Awareness Committee was working on that also includes queries about other municipalities and

policing as well as a recent meeting GAC had with DHS about resources and needs of citizens in jails who need a bed at one of the forensic facilities like Choate, Chester, Alton, etc.

- A committee member spoke about a treatment committee she worked on that she believed is related to what DHS is working on in their forensic workgroup
- Leigh Richie spoke to the ILBC bill signed into law and the expansion of CIT training and funding for training in the bill. She also pointed out that during the legislative hearings leading up to the release of the bill there were models like the CAHOS model in Oregon that seeks to divert persons with MH issues from coming in contact with police because once you are in the system it is hard to come out of it. She gave some further details about the model and suggested that the committee look at this model and others which have resulted in cost savings to those that utilize it. She also referenced the Culver-? Model that some jurisdictions use that have a police officer and social worker show up to the scene.
- John Keigher spoke to resources available in the 102 counties and also spoke about some of the CIT training for dispatch. Some counties come together to offer trainings and the ILSBE does hope that CIT training for dispatch grows to become the norm in more counties. There is a one day course and there is expansion of this and the teams that fall in the ILBC CJ Reform bill.
- Leigh Richie asked further questions about training for officers by ILSBE related to persons with physical disabilities like citizens who are deaf and hard of hearing and spoke about the Chicago Police Department consent decree with which she has some first hand knowledge from her work in the State's Attorney's office
- John Keigher talked about the training has been expanded a bit more with a few more hours On handling calls with persons with physical disabilities. Certain towns because of their size have more knowledge about their citizens based on the population, but these days in some counties/areas you never know who you may be pulling over therefore the CIT training and other expanded trainings are recommended to be adopted by more across the state. Executive Director Keigher also spoke about ADA Coordinators within law enforcement arenas.
- Leigh Richie asked if there were more issues to consider
- Committee members expressed additional interest in models like those previously mentioned and Lt. Col. Smith suggested a pilot program of a model or models one in the northern half and another in the southern half
- Kathy Hunt-Muse shared both previously mentioned models in the chat box
- Leigh Richie brought up the need to look at all of these matters with police reactions and juveniles.
- Darlene Perry asked if the end goal is to seek diversion from the criminal justice system/ police interactions and to social work
- Leigh Richie spoke to the broader charge of the task force as set forth in the mandate passed under GAC's legislative agenda
- Kathy Hunt-Muse asked if there was anyone on the committee who has a disability who has a story to share of their interactions with the police
- Leigh Richie confirmed that there are and those of who are family members whose children have been through the criminal justice system
- There is a suggestion to have them speak to the committee which was agreed upon by the committee chair
- Leigh Richie also spoke about the need to find out about other resources as well especially related to juveniles

#### 4. Next Steps/Assignments

- Leigh Richie did a wrap up of what the committee spoke about and what they were looking for in terms of interviews from other task force members who have experience with things like moving through the criminal justice system, models being utilized in other states. She queried if the team would like to schedule a follow-up meeting to determine what they would like to focus on
- John Keigher indicated that his team is looking into the CAHOS model as some other models as well as de-escalation models that other states are using (these focus on MH).
- Leigh Richie indicated that this would be helpful and encouraged the group to think creatively about recommendations/solutions including legislation. Also encouraged thinking about costs because many LEO's have issues with implementation based on costs and availability of funding
- John Keigher announced that Winnebago County is currently running a CAHOS pilot program which they will be looking at and Leigh Richie indicated that she was unaware that the state has a pilot running in the state
- Leigh queried the committee about scheduling another meeting
- Committee members agreed and pondered about what they should look to focus on in between meetings
- Leigh suggested looking at the models shared in the chat box and gather information/research to share with the group moving forward
- Darlene Perry offered to do some research and share it out with the group
- John Keigher queried about the deadline to get a report to the General Assembly
- The committee began a discussion about selecting a meeting date
- Leigh Richie encouraged members to share information found via the email thread that has been set up, but not to make decisions on anything via email due to Open Meeting Act

#### 5. Public Comment

- None

#### 6. Adjournment

- Lt. Col. Akil Smith moves to adjourn the meeting
- Fred Chinn Seconded the Motion
- Ayes have it and the meeting adjourned at 2:09 pm