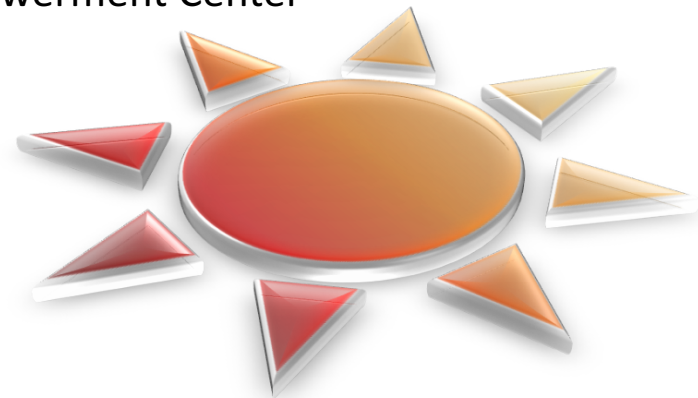




Improving Relationships between Police and the Mental Health Community

May 25, 2016

Dwayne Mayes, Mental Health Association Westchester
Brenda Vezina, Central Mass Recovery Learning Community
Alan Green, Mental Health Association Nebraska
Sergeant John Walsh, Lincoln Police Department
Moderated by Oryx Cohen, National Empowerment Center

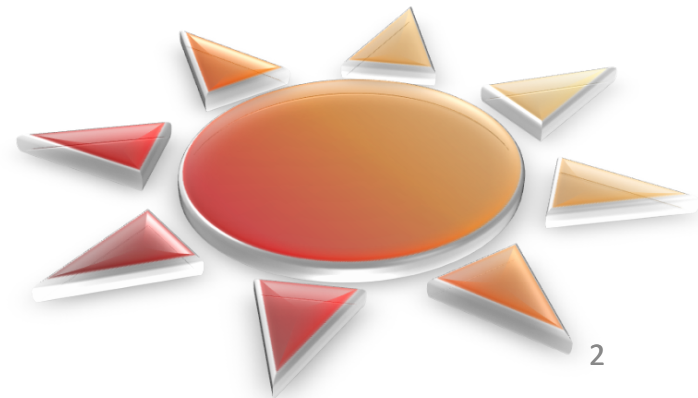




Archive

This Webinar will be recorded. The PowerPoint presentation and the audio recording of the teleconference will be posted to the NEC website at:

<http://www.power2u.org>





Questions?

At the end of the webinar, there will be a Q & A session. You are invited to ask questions at any time through the “question” function. Questions will be taken in the order they are received.





Today's Agenda:

1. Housekeeping, background, and speaker introductions – Oryx Cohen
2. Dwayne Mayes
3. Brenda Vezina
4. Alan Green and Sergeant John Walsh
5. Q & A





Background: The Bad News

- Police kill someone in mental or emotional crisis every 36 hours in this country
- Over half of all people killed by the police have been diagnosed with some type of mental illness

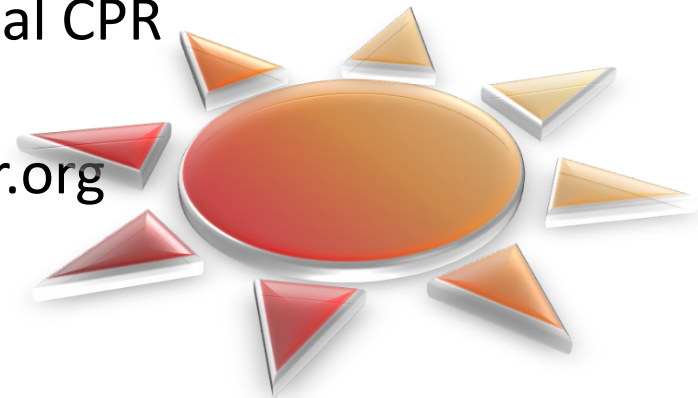




Background: The Good News

- When peers have an established relationship with police and/or the police are trained in practices such as CIT or Emotional CPR, the experience vastly improves and tragedy can be averted.
- The International Association of Chiefs of Police recommend both CIT and Emotional CPR

www.emotional-cpr.org



Improving Relationships Between Police and the Mental Health Community

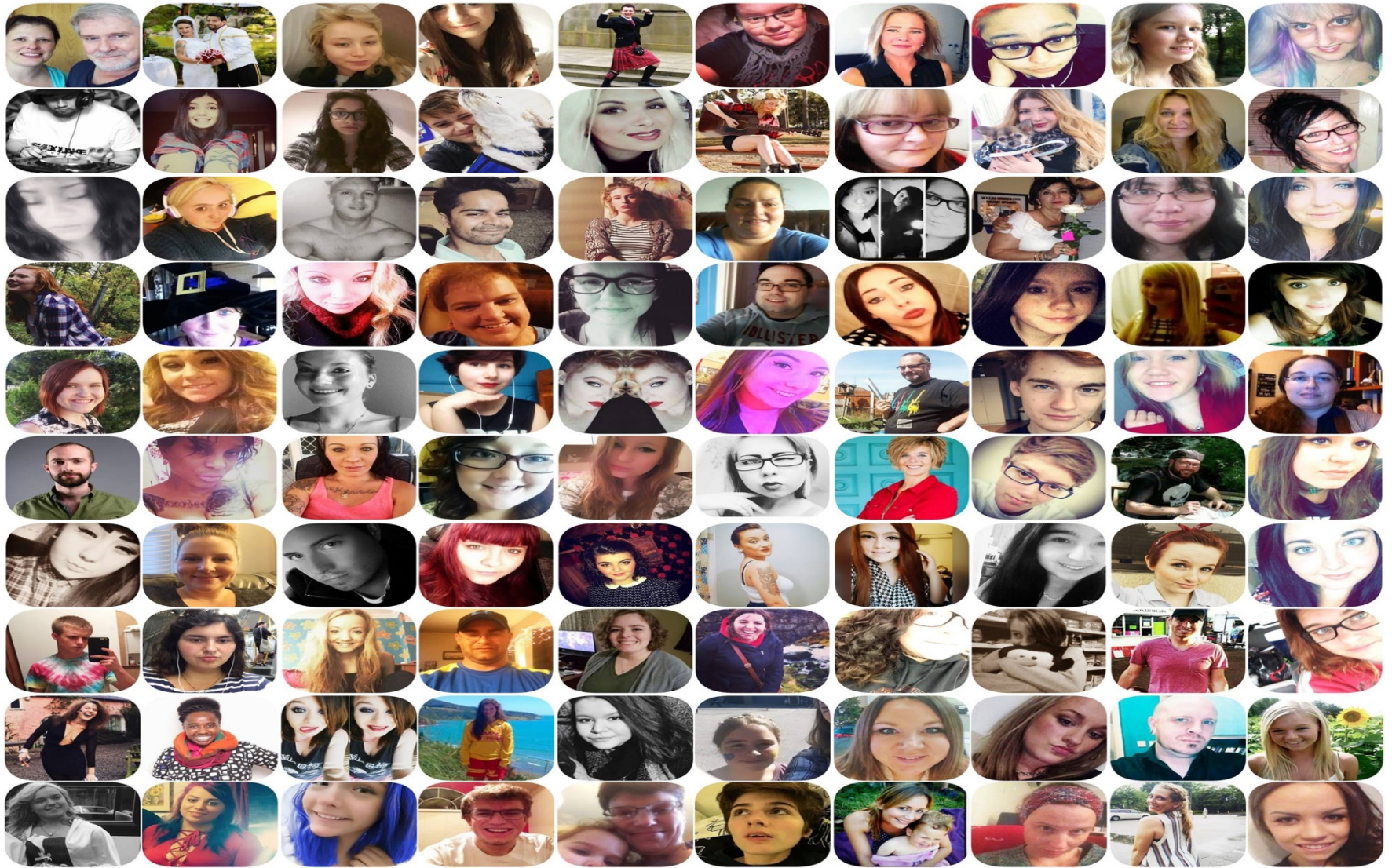
A Peer Perspective

Dwayne J. Mayes

Coordinator of Peer Services

Mental Health Association of Westchester, Inc.

Who/What is the Mental Health Community?



Selective Law Enforcement: Intersection of Injustice, Disability and Human Rights



Social Context of Police Intervention

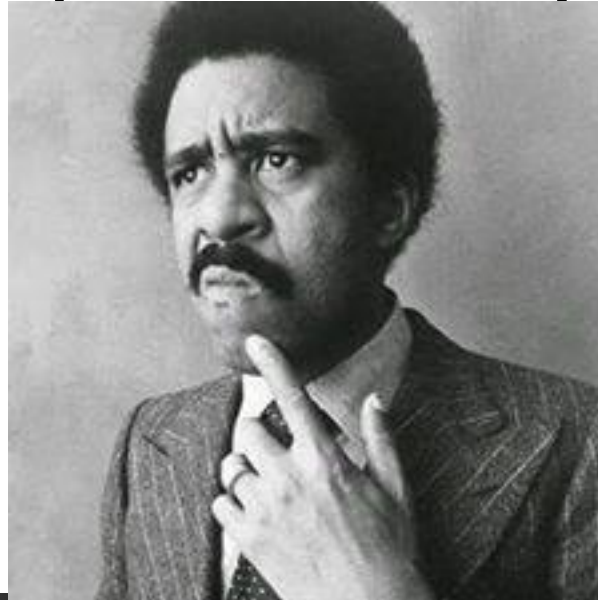
Before the Civil War, some psychiatrists diagnosed slaves with what they called drapetomania: "a mental illness in which the slave possessed an irrational desire for freedom and a tendency to try to escape."



Perceptions... Public and Police



When is an emotional crisis a threat to public safety?



©Lifehack



Crisis Intervention Training (NYC)

<http://www.ccitnyc.org/>

1. 911 operators can dispatch CIT trained officers to EDP calls
2. 550 Officers have been trained since summer 2015
3. Goal is for at least 5500 city-wide officers to be trained
4. Training is voluntary
5. 32 hours of training spread over 4 days
6. Hope to build a Jail Diversion Center in Harlem, South Bronx or Brooklyn
7. Hope to have CIT in the NYPD academy by 2017

Crisis Intervention Training (Westchester County)

- We have been delivering CIT Training to officers in a regional academy format since 2006. Rough guess, average 40 officers per year for 10 years, some 400 officers.
- New Rochelle Police Department has trained all of their Critical Incident Unit officers as well as those patrol officers that might be called to support their CIU.
- We have a collaborative initiative with the City of White Plains with a mental health professional embedded into their Department. We call it the Police Mental Health Outreach Team. It is a co-response model similar to the LAPD's Case Assessment Management Program. They also have over 30% of their officers CIT trained.
- We have a mirror collaborative initiative with the City of Yonkers Police Department in the 4th Precinct. Co-response model with one County staff member embedded into the 4th.
- Those are the police agencies that I know have done something substantial. My guess is that in some of the other police departments like, Scarsdale for example, is a Police Officer who has taken the training to become their CIT officer.
- We have run classes in Orange, Putnam, Dutchess and Ulster and Bronx counties. We had a class recently in the Police Academy of Westchester.

What's next?

- Expansion of Academy Training
- Increased collaboration with Mobile Crisis Teams
- More officers trained in CIT
- Enhanced ability for 911 Dispatchers to locate trained officers
- Feed-back from the first responders

The Central Mass Recovery Learning
Community/Kiva center

209 Shrewsbury Street,
Worcester, Ma

The community and the connection with the local law enforcement

- The Worcester Police Force and the Recovery Learning Community work side by side to lessen trauma when law enforcement intersects with a person with a mental health condition.
- The CIT Program and its leaders recognize the value of community relationships and sharing lived experience.

Together, the CIT Officers and the Peer Community work toward making it safer to access services such as Substance Abuse Intervention Clinics and connect people with peers to avoid a traumatic instance and/or a 911 hospital intervention

- We are building trusting relationships between uniformed police and our community, based on the truth that all people are subject to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder-coming from an “equal people-different roles” perspective is not the norm for people in power and we work to reduce power differentials to expose the humanity and compromise in situations when they can be relieved by such

DID YOU KNOW?



#EndTheDrugWar

There is a stronger link between childhood trauma and substance abuse....

- ...Then there is between obesity and diabetes, 2/3 of people who struggle with substance abuse report being abused as children.
- That means that the War on Drugs is a War on Traumatized people who just need help----#endthedrugwar
- When the Central Mass RLC discovered that 95% of its participants declare some trauma in their lives or childhoods, we decided to expose this truth against all support. Therapists, doctors, etc warned us not to talk about trauma, yet, we find that talking about trauma reduces not only symptoms or behaviors , it creates a level of resilience!!!!

- We work together with our law enforcement to reduce harm to our community members by promoting an atmosphere of self-awareness and self-care all while creating inclusive communities.
- When something occurs in our area, the police , because of our ongoing communication and neighborhood visibility, respond in a more trauma sensitive way leading the person to help rather than to further traumatic exposure.
- The simple facts are that the Crisis Intervention Team officers approach in plain clothes, no badges or weapons exposed and they pull their vehicle to a proper parking space rather than to draw attention to a marked police car and stigmatize our center or frighten our members.
- We look forward to continuing our work with the CIT Program in all counties and are currently expanding to Southbridge, Mass

- It is also our experience to ask “What Happened to You?” rather than “What’s Wrong with you?”
- It is the human connection that facilitates the most positive outcome and the understanding of the impact of language --

An Effective Partnership: The Ultimate Win-Win



Alan Green, MHA-NE
Sergeant John Walsh, LPD

Collaboration in: Training

Law Enforcement Academy

Focusing on identification, engagement and referral options

LPD In-Service Training

BH Threat Assessment

Annual training for Nebraska law enforcement officers, FBI, US Marshals

NE DOCS

Resiliency, dealing with trauma for COs

Collaboration in: Crisis Diversion

R.E.A.L. Program:

Respond, Empower, Advocate, Listen

Utilizes a proactive approach and lived experience to support persons who have non-criminal interaction(s) with LPD.

The Numbers . . .

1,311 individuals referred to R.E.A.L. by LPD (as of 2.9.16)

782 contacted by R.E.A.L. peers (60%)

452 accepted R.E.A.L. services (58%)

302 LPD officers making referrals

**Support services include short & long term peer support,
referral to appropriate community services**

***“This program is the lifeblood of what we do.” –
LPD Chief Jim Peschong***

***“This program is the most invaluable tool that
street officers have.” – LPD Officer Melissa Ripley***

***“300 police officers rarely agree on anything, but
they agree on the value of this program.”***

Tom Casady, City of Lincoln Public Safety Director

More from LPD . . .

“The comment I’ve received most often from officers is that in the past they ‘kept going out on the guy time after time but after referral we never see them again’.”

“It’s personal and the peers truly care. They understand the importance of natural consequences. The self directed approach allows for buy-in and ownership of addressing very complex issues.”



Contact Us

National Empowerment Center

Web: www.power2u.org

Email: oryx@power2u.org

Tel: 1-800-power-2-u

@oryxcohen

