

### **Response to Recommendation One**

EPD supports and believes strongly in training that helps the police respond more effectively and compassionately to those in crisis, especially children. EPD has participated in the formation of the committee to provide training and has in fact sent 68 officers and dispatchers to Humboldt County Health and Human Services (HCHHS) for Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). EPD has demonstrated a sizeable commitment to the training and process. It is vital that police work with the HCHHS to receive and provide training that enables the police to improve how young children are handled.

EPD does not support mandatory training for the police without several important modifications.

1. The commitment of sending officers to a 4 day class is onerous. EPD would have to pay overtime to backfill the positions vacated to attend this class in order to meet minimum staffing requirements. Overtime cost approximately \$1,300 per class, per person. If HCHHS is willing to pay the cost of officer backfill, EPD will send as many as possible, as quickly as possible, to CIT training. The class should also be reduced to two days and repeated as part of an ongoing training curriculum.
2. Feedback from police personnel who attended the class was uniformly negative. The curriculum was neither realistic nor conducive to improving how the police handle the mentally ill. The curriculum should be revamped to meet the needs of police officers who deal with the mentally ill in crisis.
3. Police trainers and tacticians must be part of the curriculum development. Part of the training should be constructed by tacticians and experienced operators to test the capability and capacity of the police to use time, talk and tactics to peacefully resolve conflict without violence. Mental health professionals must be a vital part of this training and feedback.
4. The inclusion of mental health professionals into the training. They should be part of crisis intervention and critical incident modeling as well. The interaction between the two professions would be positive for both and is needed to better understand the difficulties each experience.
5. The inclusion of special circumstances, such as the detention of youth in tender years or diminished mental capacity, crisis negotiations and mental health placement are important topics to cover.
6. Attendance by mental health professionals including Sempervirens staff.

### **Response to Recommendation Two**

Young children in a life-threatening situation are a serious concern for the police. Handling the situation delicately is important and happens more often than the police would like. Any reasonable training that improves the capacity of the police to peacefully resolve this problem is welcomed and needed. A protocol that directs juvenile mental health workers to respond and assist would also be an important step forward. The training should however be in a format that allows rapid training over a short period of time with a measureable outcome.

Any questions about EPD recommendations or clarifications needed may be directed to the Chief of Police. Chief Andrew Mills may be reached at (707) 832-5108 or [amills@ci.eureka.ca.gov](mailto:amills@ci.eureka.ca.gov)