

# Academic Training to Inform Police Responses:

## A National Curriculum to Enhance Police Engagement with People with Behavioral Health Issues and Developmental Disabilities

### Overview

For police officers, responding to situations involving individuals with behavioral health (BH) issues and/or intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in a safe, effective manner can often present a significant challenge. Although police routinely responds to calls involving persons with BH issues and I/DD, the lack of resources and knowledge for these encounters remains a troublesome reality. Seeking to address the need for additional training and resources, researchers from the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati, in collaboration with Policy Research Associates, The Arc of the United States' National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, are currently working on an academic training to inform police responses to people with behavioral health issues and/or developmental disabilities.

#### Primary Objectives:

- Address the need for additional training and resources
- Raise awareness in the policing community about the nature and needs of persons with BH issues and I/DD
- Facilitate the use of evidence-based and best practices in police response to persons with BH issues and I/DD

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### Project Design & Implementation

#### Develop & Implement a National Curriculum

Prepare an academic-based training to:

- Inform police responses to people living with BH issues
- Guide police responses to people with I/DD
- Pilot-test within multiple law enforcement agencies

#### Develop Technology Solutions

E-learning training materials will be developed to:

- Increase accessibility and feasibility to rural agencies
- Increase flexibility for training schedules
- Reduce overall training time

#### Develop Best Practice Guides & New Products

Best practice guides in police response to persons with BH and I/DD will be developed to:

- Present information on evidence-based and best practice models
- Identify existing resources designed to help with implementation of police responses
- Inform development of new resources, such as tip sheets, action briefs, and webinars

#### Evaluate Curriculum Development & Deliver Training and Technical Assistance

An evaluation will be conducted to assess:

- Training effects
- Impacts of different approaches in training preparation and delivery
- Outcomes of e-learning materials developed to augment the curriculum

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