

NORTH CAROLINA TASK FORCE ON RACIAL EQUITY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Law Enforcement Advisory Group Meeting

Agenda

9.28.2022 10:00am – 11:00am

1) Welcome (Mike)

2) Co- and alternative responder programs introduction (Jasmine, Brian Aagan (RTI), and Sheriff Paula Dance)

- **Recommendation text from [TREC Report](#):**

RESPOND MORE APPROPRIATELY TO CALLS FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE.

Emergency response strategies should emphasize that law enforcement is not the best fit for every type of call for services and instead focus on providing needed services and support. Communities should consider approaches that include:

- *Co-responder units pairing crisis-trained officers with social workers or other professionals, which the town of Chapel Hill has done since 1973.*
- *Models such as CAHOOTS (Eugene, Oregon) and STARS (Denver, Colorado) that provide for the dispatch of non-law-enforcement personnel to appropriate calls.*
- *At a minimum, the dispatching of officers with crisis intervention training (CIT), but ideally officers who specialize in crisis intervention and are CIT Officers.*

Local jurisdictions should create and fund these new models to begin these best practices. These models should track metrics and provide training on mental illness, autism, intellectual disabilities, substance misuse, and homelessness to all system stakeholders, including emergency dispatch operators, to ensure that these models are implemented in a racially equitable way. Legislative and grant funding at the state level will greatly assist communities in establishing these programs, as will the availability of training and technical assistance from the North Carolina Justice Academy (Justice Academy) and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). The North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission (Standards Commissions) have opportunities to consider rulemaking in this area.

- **Survey data**

- o LEAG survey – this recommendation scored as second most supported.
- o February 2021 Alternative Responder Survey of law enforcement leaders (276 responses)
 - 38 responding agencies had a co- or alternate responder program.
 - 17 of these programs were run by the agency while 21 were run by an external organization.
 - 32 responding agencies were actively considering starting a program.

- “Concerns about safety of non-sworn personnel” was the most popular barrier to starting a program.
- 189 responding agencies indicated that they were interested in learning more about alternative responder programs.

3) Discussion and implementation ideas (Jasmine leads)

4) Meeting schedule for October (Jasmine)

5) Adjourn (Mike)