

## **Summary of October 15th Meeting of the Saranac Lake Police Review Committee**

The meeting was held via zoom from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Present were: John Sweeney, Chief James Joyce, Melinda Little, Chris Morris, Ernest Hough, Sarah Clarkin, Betsy Fuller, Rhonda Lynn Couwenhoven.

There are several in-service training opportunities available to the SL Police Dept., including but not limited to:

- Verbal de-escalation trainings that can be accessed through Horizon Health (as per Betsy Fuller).
- Trainings, both short-term and recurring, offered by an officer from Potsdam who is a certified law-enforcement trainer.

The committee agreed that a description for what trainings are needed and recommended should be included in our Committee's recommendations as this is a key element of the EO203 directive.

The Chief was unable at this time to provide traffic pattern data and will continue to try to get the software working correctly so it can be provided.

The Chief is working with Suzanne Lavigne to establish an on call mental health partnership with Behavioral Health Services/Franklin County which will "improve the hand off to Health Professionals" as needed. This is in addition to working with the Essex County Referral System and the plan to offer that system as a pilot in the Franklin County side of Saranac Lake which is also being worked on.

### **De-escalation**

Currently there are 8 hours of specific training on this topic incorporated into the Police Academy curriculum but it is also interspersed throughout the curriculum,

Ernest asked if there is follow up training. No, not at this time.

De-escalation is a strategy and a philosophy that the committee agreed needs to be institutionalized into the police department's culture for the future, perhaps by stating that it is one of the SLPD's guiding principles/core values. (Avoiding use of force is part of this.)

To that end, the chief outlined what influences the Police Department.

1. Policy/Procedures
2. Leadership
3. Supervision
4. Discipline
5. Agency Culture
6. Training
7. Hiring

The Chief stated to prioritize De-escalation it needs to be incorporated into individual policies.

Ernest gave an overview of the CPI training at the Lakeside house, which parallels the training opportunities the Police Chief is looking for as additional training.

The Chief will provide the components of each training opportunity he is reviewing and distribute it to the committee

The committee discussed where the “pairing” of mental health and the police will happen during the process of receiving and dispatching officers to calls. The Chief and Village Manager will reach out to 911 for discussion.

Melinda: Survey Status closed as of EOD 10-15-2020. What do we do with the data and how do we provide it to the public?

Next week review

1. Survey Data Discussion
2. Handcuff review

The next Public Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30-6:30 via zoom.