

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	CASE NO.: 1:15-CV-01046
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	JUDGE SOLOMON OLIVER, JR.
vs.)	
)	NOTICE SUBMITTING CITY's
CITY OF CLEVELAND)	SIXTH ANNUAL CRISIS
)	INTERVENTION IN-SERVICE
Defendant.)	TRAINING CURRICULUM
)	
)	

The Monitoring Team respectfully submits to the Court the attached curriculum for training of police officers in crisis intervention for its approval. The City of Cleveland (the “City”), on behalf of the Cleveland Division of Police (“CDP” or “Division”), provided the Crisis Intervention Suicide Prevention In-Service Curriculum (collectively, the “Proposed Training Curriculum”) for basic training in crisis intervention for police officers pursuant to Paragraph 143 of the Consent Decree and the Monitoring Plan.¹ Paragraph 143 of the Consent Decree obligates the CDP to ensure that “CDP will provide training on responding to individuals in crisis to all of its officers and recruits.”² Furthermore, Paragraph 143 indicates that “officers will be provided with at least eight hours of initial training, and all officers will receive annual in-service training thereafter.”³ CDP officers have received the initial eight hours of training. This training is part of the annual

¹ Dkt. 413-1, Exhibit A at ¶143; Dkt. 416

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

in-service training in crisis intervention. The presently reviewed curriculum addresses the Decree's requirements for additional officer in-service crisis intervention training.

The Proposed Curriculum consists of three hours of training. The material covers a series of topics integral to Law Enforcement and Suicide Prevention. The topics include: strategies for suicide prevention; formal definitions of mental illness, behavioral crises; health conditions associated with a higher risk of suicide; understanding of the set of events that can lead to suicide prevention; specific life-saving skills during a suicidal crisis; the impact of the pandemic; review of verbal skills; review of non-verbal behavioral clues related to suicide behaviors; local and state data on suicide risk; the stigma associated with a behavioral crisis; the impact of gender, race, ethnicity, LGBTQ, age, veterans' status, culture and special populations on suicide risk; relevant CDP policies; and resources to address suicidal behaviors in the Cleveland area such as the 988 Crisis Line and the Diversion Center.

The Proposed Training Curriculum was developed with leadership from the Mental Health Response Advisory Committee's ("MHRAC" or "the Committee") Training Subcommittee Task Force which made use of community experts on suicide prevention. These experts included the Ohio Statewide Suicide Foundation, the ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga as well as other individuals. While major changes to the structure of MHRAC were underway during the development of this curriculum, special effort was made to coordinate the review of the curriculum with the City of Cleveland Division of Public Health's new role in providing the leadership for MHRAC. The curriculum was presented to the MHRAC Training Committee and the MHRAC general membership for review. The CDP Training Division provided significant input to the final product and was very responsive to feedback from the Department of Justice and Monitoring Team. This community and agency collaborative effort continues a theme of the training

established in each in-service curriculum, that of forging partnerships between law enforcement and the community to address critical behavioral health issues.

The course follows principles consistent with adult learning strategies. This includes interactive teaching techniques to integrate lecture material with the officers' experiences, and practice in responding to individuals who are experiencing suicidal behavior. Exhibit A provides the instructor manual and lesson plan with PowerPoint slides. The course instructors are community subject matter experts with applied experience in addressing issues involving suicide behaviors. This course provides excellent training for CDP officers. The Department of Justice has approved the Curriculum.

The Monitoring Team's role is to "assess and report whether the requirements" of the Consent Decree "have been implemented."⁴ (requiring the Monitor to "review . . . policies, procedures, practices, training curricula, and programs developed and implemented under" the Decree). The task of the Monitoring Team here is to determine whether the proposed training curriculum complies with the Consent Decree's requirements. The Monitoring Team agrees that it provides important understanding of the role of law enforcement in interacting with individuals experiencing suicidal behavior. The training also allows officers to have a command of available resources and intervention strategies. The Monitoring Team therefore recommends that the Court approve CDP's Sixth Crisis Intervention In-Service Training Curriculum.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ayesha Bell Hardaway
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⁴ id. at ¶ 351- 352.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on April 14, 2023, I served the foregoing document entitled
Notice Submitting City's Sixth Annual Crisis Intervention In-Service Training Curriculum
via the court's ECF system to all counsel of record.

/s/ Ayesha Bell Hardaway
AYESHA BELL HARDAWAY

ⁱ The information included in this filing and the related work were completed during the filer's service as Interim Monitor. Attorney Karl Racine was appointed Monitor by Order of the Court on April 12, 2023 and is aware of this filing.