



# NEWS RELEASE

## Chicago Police Department

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### **CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT ACHIEVES MAJOR MILESTONE TOWARD CRISIS INTERVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS TRAINING**

*Department completes International Association of Chiefs of Police "One Mind Campaign" pledge to provide 100% of officers with mental health awareness training and at least 20% of Department with Crisis Intervention Team training*

**CHICAGO** — The Chicago Police Department (CPD) today announced the completion and certification of a national pledge to ensure successful interactions between police officers and persons affected by mental illness through dedicated training and partnership with local mental health organizations.

The pledge is part of an initiative called the One Mind Campaign started by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), a 30,000-member professional association for law enforcement that provides training, technical assistance, and recruitment services.

The One Mind Campaign seeks to ensure successful interactions between police officers and persons affected by mental illness by having law enforcement agencies commit to the implementation of four promising practices:

- Establish a clearly defined and sustainable relationship with at least one community mental health organization
- Develop and implement a written policy addressing law enforcement response to persons affected by mental illness
- Demonstrate that 100% of sworn officers (and selected non-sworn staff, such as dispatchers) are trained and certified in Mental Health First Aid
- Demonstrate that 20% of sworn officers (and selected non-sworn staff, such as dispatchers) are trained and certified on the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training

In completing the One Mind Pledge, CPD demonstrated partnerships with several community-based service providers and established a suite of crisis intervention-related policies that guide officers' interactions with those affected by mental illness.

Additionally, all officers have received mental health awareness training, with 24% of sworn Department members completing the more intensive Crisis Intervention Training. This exceeds the campaign pledge baseline of 20% established by IACP.

“Police officers often serve as first responders to individuals experiencing a behavioral or mental health crisis,” said Commander Antoinette Ursitti, commander of the CPD Crisis Intervention Unit. “To appropriately meet this need, CPD is continuing to invest in the training, staffing, and resources necessary for our officers to properly respond to individuals in crisis with dignity and respect.”

CPD's 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team curriculum is designed and delivered in collaboration with local mental and behavioral health professionals, advocates, and individuals with lived experience to train a team of specialized officers to respond to calls that involve individuals with mental health disorders such as depression or intellectual disability. The curriculum includes education on various de-escalation techniques as well as live role-play scenarios of officers responding to persons who need mental health assistance.

“As law enforcement leaders, we know that successful interactions between police officers and persons affected by mental illness improves public trust, ensures officer safety, and saves lives,” wrote IACP President Steven M. Casstevens. “The significance of your efforts cannot be overstated.”

For more information about the One Mind Campaign, visit the IACP's website at <https://www.theiacp.org/projects/one-mind-campaign>.

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