

## Attorney General's Advisory Group on Law Enforcement Training 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting (01-08-2015)

The meeting was held at Alvis House, which provides residential and non-residential re-entry programs.

The meeting ran from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

We approved the minutes from the last meeting.

Dr. Reggie Wilkinson recapped the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting by reviewing high points from the Ohio Revised Code and the Administrative Rule.

We had a presentation from two people from the National Alliance of Mental Illness. One of the presenters was Terry Russell.

He talked about the stigma and poverty of those with mental illnesses.

He talked about the broken system and the fact that 50% of the care of these individuals is by their families.

The prison system has become the quasi mental health system.

Loïc Wacquant shows how the pullback of the Welfare net reduced the funding for mental health agencies. This led to the releasing of many persons onto the streets. Those with mental illnesses become involved with the police because of vagrancy and other minor infractions of the law.

Those with mental illnesses are **not** generally violent. They are much more likely to experience **danger** from others, as to be a danger **to** others.

This is all connected to a need for CIT (Crisis Intervention Training), which helps officers to handle this population with much better results. This is not just training. This creates a culture change. This culture change, which deals with de-escalation, seems to be important in reducing violent or unsatisfactory interactions with the police.

CIT training is not mandatory, it is costly, and only a fraction of officers in Ohio are trained. There are 24,000 people trained worldwide and 7,000 of those are in Ohio. The current number of those who are peace officers is unknown. There are 34,000 peace officers in Ohio.

Officer Sarah Shendy, shared a personal testimony of how CIT training changed her orientation to police work.

Chief Joe Morbitzer also gave a personal testimony as to the impact of CIT upon those under his command.

CIT training is an area of concern that the Advisory Group plans to look into.

After Lunch, we had another presentation on "Correction and Parole Officer Assessment and Training". These persons are part of the 34,000 peace officers in the State of Ohio.

There are similar concerns about the CIT training, the level of training, in-service training, etc.

The February meetings will be on February the 2<sup>nd</sup> and February the 18<sup>th</sup> at the Columbus Police Academy.

We are beginning with three subcommittees:

**Mental Health** led by Terry Russell.

**Excessive Use of Force** led by Prosecutor Andy Wilson.

**Community Relations** led by Officer Sarah Shendy.

Governor Ocasek also has a Task Force and there has been some discussion about how our group interfaces with their group. It seems that their parameters are broader and they will be depending upon what we do in the area of policing.