

# WEEKLY POLICY SUMMARY:

## Law Enforcement Community Support for Mental Health Challenge

### April 5, 2019

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#### Praise For Law Enforcement's Handling Of Mental Health Challenges

1. [The Gazette](#): The Sheriff's Office in Linn County, Iowa recently pledged to join the One Mind Campaign, part of an initiative started by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to provide training to officers and implement policies that better address dispatch calls involving people in mental health crises. The Linn County Sheriff's Office is partnering with local mental health organization Foundation 2 to help implement the practices and applied for federal grant money to embed a Foundation 2 crisis counselor within the patrol division to respond to scenes where deputies are dealing with people in crisis. Sheriff Brian Gardner said all deputies, Linn County corrections officers, correctional nurses, and communications operators will receive training.
2. [The Grand Haven Tribune](#): Ottawa County, Michigan Sheriff Steve Kempker has been reappointed to the Michigan State Mental Health Council. The council offers solutions to improve services for Michiganders living with mental health conditions to help ensure better quality of life, safety, and independence, according to a progress report from 2018. Kempker stated that a mental health training program was conducted at the Grand Valley State University Police Academy last year, and also emphasized the importance of training academy recruits in the mental health field, as well as giving continuing education to current police officers.



Ottawa County, Michigan Sheriff Steve Kempker

3. [Moberly Monitor-Index](#): The Moberly County, Missouri Police Department partnered with other local law enforcement officials and community representatives to host a crisis intervention training session. The training, part of the 40-hour instruction series for the

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statewide program Missouri Crisis Intervention Team, aims to bring together local law enforcement agencies and mental health professionals. Community Mental Health Liaison Courtney Johnson stated that crisis intervention training is important because of how often law enforcement officials interact with people who have a mental illness, and that the training will be integrated into the law enforcement academy as well.



Moberly Police Chief Troy Link opens the crisis intervention training program, addressing how the program can help law enforcement

4. [The Echo Journal](#): In Baxter, Minnesota, law enforcement officials prevented a 21-year-old man suffering from a mental health crisis from committing suicide. The team of negotiators was able to keep the man on the telephone and eventually calm him down after six hours. He was then taken to Essentia Health-St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd, Minnesota for a mental health evaluation. Baxter Police Chief Jim Exsted stated law enforcement continues to work with individuals struggling with a mental health illness or a crisis.
5. [News 9](#): Former Texas state representative Jerry Madden spoke to officials in Oklahoma about reducing the state's prison population. Madden is often credited with reducing Texas's prison population by shifting the focus to mental health and substance abuse services. Madden highlighted that since Texas shifted its focus, eight prisons have been closed in the state and "reduced our prison population by roughly 10 or 11,000."
  - [Video](#)



Former Texas State Representative Jerry Madden

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## Reliance On Law Enforcement For Mental Health Needs

6. [Live Well Nebraska](#): Sarpy County, Nebraska’s local government is in the early stages of creating a short-term mental health crisis center to help people with mental illnesses. Early plans have called for a \$13 million, 22,000- to 25,000-square-foot facility that would be available to all Sarpy County law enforcement agencies, as well as several other Nebraskan counties. The center is expected to relieve the overcrowded local jail and provide a safe, specialized center where people can be stabilized, evaluated and either released or transferred to a long-term inpatient facility.
7. [Mental Health First Aid](#): An article highlighted law enforcement’s current role as the primary first responders for the nation’s mental health crisis and profiled Mental Health First Aid, an organization that trains law enforcement in the mental health field. Mental Health First Aid is a nationwide effort that attempts to teach law enforcement how to safely deescalate a mental health crisis and who to call for support. Law enforcement agencies such as the Orland Park, Illinois Police Department and the New Mexico State Police have received the training.
  - [Success Story](#): Officer Orlando Singleton from Kansas received Mental Health First Aid training, was able to calm down a teenager going through a mental health crisis. Singleton stated that the training has, “been such an effective tool,” and that “now we’re so much more aware of what the kids are going through.”
8. [The Council of State Governments Justice Center](#): In 2004, the U.S. Congress authorized the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) through the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA). This program was created to help state governments, local governments, and tribal organizations improve their services for people with mental disorders who are involved with the criminal justice system. The program facilitates collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice,

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and mental health and substance use treatment systems to better serve individuals with mental disorders and to increase public safety. Since 2006, 381 JMHCP grants have been awarded to agencies and organizations in 49 U.S. states and territories and the District of Columbia.

- [Vermont’s Statewide Recidivism Reduction Strategy](#): Vermont used a JMHCP grant to expand their Statewide Recidivism Reduction (SRR) program, which aims at realigning the state’s correctional culture to reduce recidivism and improve public safety.



Map of where JMHCP grants have been approved throughout the United States.

9. [Cleveland.com](#): Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that he wants Ohio to spend \$200 million on new initiatives aimed at addiction and mental health. The ideas for the initiatives came from the RecoveryOhio Advisory Council, made up of mental health and addiction experts, law enforcement officers, and state agency leaders. The council visited communities throughout the state and talked to people about gaps in treatment and prevention in their areas.



Ohio Governor DeWine discussing his recommendations for new initiatives aimed at addiction and mental health.

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*There is no recent activity.*