

Serving Safely

Enhancing Policing for Persons with Mental Illnesses and Developmental Disabilities

Leah Pope, Vera Institute of Justice

Melissa Reuland, Vera Institute of Justice

Ariel Simms, The Arc of the United States

Shannon Scully, National Alliance

on Mental Illness

February 13, 2019
Bureau of Justice Assistance,
National Training and Technical
Assistance Center Webinar

Serving Safely Overview

Serving Safely: The National Initiative to Enhance Policing for Persons with Mental Illnesses and Developmental Disabilities

- Provides FREE technical assistance and training to law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices.
- Works with law enforcement agencies to *safely, appropriately,* and *effectively* respond to people with mental illnesses (MI) and/or intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD).
- Hinges on the work of a multidisciplinary project team with leaders in:
 - Policing;
 - Mental illness;
 - Intellectual and developmental disability;
 - Crisis intervention;
 - Peer advocacy;
 - Prosecution;
 - Emergency medicine; and
 - Technology development.

Serving Safely: The National Initiative to Enhance Policing for Persons with Mental Illnesses and Developmental Disabilities

Objectives	Facilitate greater access to mental illnesses (MI) and intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD) training, technical assistance, resources, research, and subject-matter experts to enhance practice
	Equip police and their service partners with tangible tools and knowledge to safely respond to and resolve incidents involving persons with MI/IDD
	Build and support a national community of practice
	Promote a no-wrong-door approach to MI/IDD training and technical assistance



Contributions to the Field	Expose police agencies to a wide range of response models
	Streamline access to other BJA- and federally-funded MI/IDD training and resources
	Identify gaps and recommend an agenda to inform future police-oriented MI/IDD research

Practical Benefits to Your Agency	Ensure safe interactions with persons with MI/IDD
	Facilitate clear and effective communication between your agency, MI/IDD service providers, and community stakeholders
	Identify partnership strategies and models to refer MI/IDD cases to professionals and community supports rather than jail, when appropriate
	Promote the destigmatization of MI/IDD across your agency and in community
	Support planning, deployment, tactics training, and other operational priorities through the use of data and technology

For more information or to request training and technical assistance (TTA), please visit www.servingsafely.org.

Serving Safely: Practical Benefits to Your Agency

Benefits to Your Agency

- Safer interactions
- Clear and effective communication between the agency and community
- Access to tools, trainings, and expertise
- Enhanced partnerships and models for diversion of people with MI and I/DD to professionals and community supports rather than jail, when appropriate

Benefits to Your Agency

- Destigmatization of MI and I/DD across your agency and community
- Improved planning, deployment, tactics training, and other operational priorities through the use of data and technology

Serving Safely Partners

Serving Safely Partners

- American College of Emergency Physicians
- The Arc, National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability (NCCJD)
- CIT International
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- National Disability Rights Network
- Police Executive Research Forum
- Prosecutors' Center for Excellence
- University of Illinois at Chicago, Amy Watson, Ph.D.
- Michael Compton, M.D.
- **Subject matter experts** in the fields of policing, mental illness, intellectual/developmental disabilities, research, crisis intervention, peer advocacy, technology, and prosecution

Serving Safely Activities

Serving Safely Activities: Technical Assistance

- Total of 44 requests to date (launched May 1, 2018)
- Overview of law enforcement requests (38)
 - Example: Austin, Texas
- Overview of prosecution requests (6)
 - Example: New York State Attorney General, New York

Serving Safely Activities: Training

Trainings to be developed and offered:

- Law Enforcement Executives Leadership Training
- Sharing Your Story with Law Enforcement Training
- Crisis Scenario Train-the-Trainer
- Emergency Dispatcher Training
- Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator Certificate Course
- Pathways to Justice[®] Training

Serving Safely Activities: Creating Best Practices Resources

- Best practices in mental health treatments, services, and supports
- Best practices on I/DD and criminal justice
- Best practices for prosecutors and first responders, including guides, law enforcement executive curriculum, webinars, and research reviews

Investing in Community Partnerships

Who Are My Community Partners?

1. People with Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

- Peer groups
- Self-advocacy groups

2. Advocacy Groups

- NAMI state and affiliate organizations
- State and local chapters of The Arc
- Protection and advocacy organizations

3. Service Providers

- Housing
- Employment
- Health care

4. Family Members and Supporters

When to Invest in Community Partnerships?

- From the beginning!
- “Nothing about us, without us”
- Meaningful inclusion, **not** tokenism



Why Invest in Community Partnerships?

- Allies in the community
 - Built on mutual trust and understanding
- Source of information and expertise
 - Gaps in community systems
- Feedback on your successes and challenges



Serving Safely: Deep Dives



National Alliance on Mental Illness

Deep Dive: NAMI and Serving Safely

- Importance of community partnerships and incorporating people with lived experience in community efforts
- How people with lived experience are involved:
 - Lived experience presentation at law enforcement trainings;
 - Firsthand experience with systems and how they work in practice; and
 - Advocacy: NAMI is there before, during, and after changes in the community.

Deep Dive: NAMI and Serving Safely

- We need to go beyond training:
 - Need for comprehensive supportive services in the community
 - All partners need to be at the table (including advocacy, mental health, emergency services, etc.) to address the need for better responses to mental health crises
 - Divert to what? Help define what every community needs
 - Break down silos and learn from each other



The Arc[®]

*National Center on Criminal
Justice & Disability*[®]

Deep Dive: NCCJD and Serving Safely

- Created in 2013, with a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance.
- Advocate at the intersection of criminal justice reform and the advancement of disability rights.
- **Work on both victim/witness issues and on issues facing those who are charged with crimes.**

Deep Dive: NCCJD and Serving Safely

- **Training and technical assistance**
 - For criminal justice professionals
- **Resource collection and creation**
 - White papers, fact sheets, and articles
- **Information and referral**
 - For people with disabilities and their families
- **Education**
 - Social media, webinars, and conferences

Pathways to Justice[®]

**STEP 1:
Disability
Response
Team
(DRT)**

**STEP 2:
Training
for Justice
Professionals**

**STEP 3:
Ongoing
Technical
Assistance**



Pathways Principles:

- Nothing about us, without us
- Community-based
- Multidisciplinary
- Relationship-oriented

Serving Safely: Ways to Engage

Shortcut to TTA Request Form

- Request **FREE** Assistance Online: <http://bit.ly/2M1XNVJ>

Training and Technical Assistance Request Form

Serving Safely is supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance Training and Technical Assistance Initiative to Improve Police-Based Responses to Persons with Mental Illnesses and/or Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Our mission is to help support enhanced interactions between police and persons with mental illnesses and/or developmental disabilities.

To request training or technical assistance for a law enforcement agency, please fill out this form. The Vera Institute of Justice will review all requests and respond within three business days. At that time, staff will gather additional information to determine how best to assist you.

Should you have any questions, need help completing the form, or require a disability-related accommodation, please call 212-376-3074 or email servingsafely@vera.org.

* Required

Email address *

Your email

Visit the Serving Safely Website

ServingSafely.org

- Overview
- Learn More
- Request Assistance

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Serving Safely website. At the top left is the Vera Institute of Justice logo. The navigation menu includes ISSUES, WORK, BLOG, ABOUT, a search bar, and a DONATE button. Social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram are also present. The main content area features a large image of a police officer embracing a person. To the right of the image, the text reads 'Projects' followed by 'Serving Safely' in a large font, and 'The National Initiative to Enhance Policing for Persons with Mental Illnesses and Developmental Disabilities' in a smaller font. Below this is a row of social media icons. Two team members are listed: Rebecca Neusteter and Leah Pope, each with a circular profile picture. At the bottom of the page, there is a horizontal menu with links for Overview, Learn More, Related Work, Team, and Request Assistance.

Serving Safely is a national initiative designed to improve interactions between police and persons affected by mental illnesses and developmental disabilities. Supported through a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the initiative includes leaders in the fields of policing, mental illness,

Action Areas

 Building Bridges Between Police and Communities

 Expanding Access to Health Care

Requesting Assistance

- Fill out the form
- We review and make a call to discuss
- Match with partners

For Further Information

- Visit: www.servingsafely.org
- Email: Servingsafely@vera.org

Vera
INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

Questions?