



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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FUQUAY-VARINA POLICE DEPARTMENT PLEDGES TO COMPLETE THE ONE MIND CAMPAIGN

Last week, the Fuquay-Varina Police Department officially pledged to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) the intent in completing the One Mind Campaign.

The One Mind Campaign seeks to ensure successful interactions between law enforcement and individuals with mental health conditions. The initiative focuses on uniting local communities, public safety organizations, and mental health organizations so that the three become "of one mind."

The Fuquay-Varina Police Department pledged to implement several promising practices over a 12–36-month time frame. Some of these practices consist of establishing a clearly defined and sustainable partnership with one or more community health organizations; developing and implementing a model policy addressing law enforcement response to individuals with mental health conditions; and training and certifying 100 percent of sworn officers and selected non-sworn staff, such as Telecommunicators in mental health awareness courses.

The first part of the mental health awareness course consists of providing Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program to a minimum of 20 percent of sworn officers and selected non-sworn staff. The 40-hour crisis intervention curriculum trains an officer or a telecommunicator to respond to calls involving individuals with mental health conditions, learn a variety of de-escalation techniques and participate in live role-play scenarios where officers respond to those experiencing crisis due to mental health.

The second part of the mental health awareness course is providing Mental Health First Aid training or equivalent to the remaining 80 percent of officers and selected non-sworn staff. Mental Health First Aid is a course that teaches an officer or a telecommunicator how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The training gives an officer or a telecommunicator the skills they need to reach out and provide initial help

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and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis.

“The Fuquay-Varina Police Department has made some significant strides in completing all the requirements of the One Mind Campaign. Once we complete the Mental Health First Aid training requirement, we will not only be able to better serve our community members we encounter with mental health conditions, but we will also be recognized as North Carolina’s 18th law enforcement agency to take the pledge and the 5th law enforcement agency to have met and exceeded the requirements of the One Mind Campaign,” said Fuquay-Varina Police Chief Brandon Medina.

The IACP provides resources to departments that pledge to join the One Mind Campaign, including a toolkit produced by the Bureau of Justice Assistance with resources for law enforcement agencies looking to partner with mental health providers, a model policy for law enforcement when responding to persons suffering from mental illness, and resources for planning mental health first aid and crisis intervention team program trainings.

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