



Mental Health  
Commission  
of Canada

Commission de  
la santé mentale  
du Canada

# **Police Mental Health Learning from a Canadian Perspective**

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**Terry G. Coleman, MOM, Ph.D.**



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# **A Comprehensive Review of the Preparation and Learning Necessary for Effective Police Interactions with Persons with a Mental Illness**

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Dorothy Cotton, Ph.D, C.Psych.**



# **A Systems Approach to Police Interactions with Persons with a Mental Illness (PMI)**

**One part of which is education and training of  
police personnel**

**MHCC police projects include:**

- **2008 – Basic training;**
- **2010 – In-service education and training;**
- **2014 – Comprehensive review of basic and in-service education and training for police personnel**



## **Information and Data from:**

- **Basic training – 12 Canadian police colleges/academies;**
- **In-service education and training – 32 Canadian police agencies:**
  - **ranging from small, medium to large**
- **Australia, US and Ireland;**
- **International literature review**



# Training and Education about **M**entalhealth for **P**olice **O**rganizations (TEMPO)

- **Stigma and Stereotypes;**
- **Factual content (SMEs);**
- **Inclusion of PMI in design and delivery;**
- **Inclusion of mental health professionals in design and delivery;**
- **Multiagency response;**
- **Verbal communications/defusing;**
- **Procedural Justice.**



# Training and Education about Mentalhealth for Police Organizations (TEMPO)

- **The Medium is the Message**
  - **Variety of learning media;**
  - **Adult learning methods;**
  - **Designed and delivered for adult audience;**
  - **Customised for target groups;**
  - **Sharing of resources/material.**



# Putting it together to get it 'right'

- **police colleges/academies and in-service learning;**
- **selection of instructors/facilitators;**
- **use-of-force instructors;**
- **use-of-force 'training.'**



# What we still need to know

- relevant data;
  - coding
- outcome  
evaluation/research





# The Big Question

*A systems approach:*

**what are the essential ingredients/participants and desirable outcomes of police interactions with people with a mental illness?**



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# **Nation-wide consistency**

**Training and Education about Mentalhealth  
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**Supported by the Canadian Association of Chiefs  
of Police (CACCP)**



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# Thank you

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