



The Arc of Illinois is the statewide advocacy organization in Illinois for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. We believe that we are all people first and everyone deserves the same rights and opportunities.

To that end, The Arc established a working group made up of self advocates, community service provider professionals and family members to address policing practices, particularly in instances when law enforcement officers interact with people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Below are The Arc of Illinois' recommendations for reform.

1. All law enforcement officers will receive training specific to interacting with people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. This training can be stand-alone or included as part of a crisis intervention training program.

Training will be:

- Initiated at police training academies
- At least 20 hours long for current officers and new hires and 5 hours long every year after that
- Co-presented by least one person from the local community, e.g. person of color, LGBTQ+ etc., who has an Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability.
- Reviewed together with subject matter experts (people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, advocacy groups, allies, every two years to reflect new information and data available about people with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities.

2. In order to shift responsibility for mental health crisis calls and calls for other types of emotional and behavioral support away from law enforcement, a statewide alternative to 911 should be created.
 - Support teams will have primary responsibility for responding to emergency calls to the alternative number.
 - Support team membership will be decided by individuals with I/DD from the local community, providers (medical, social services, etc.), and other stakeholders, together with local police and fire departments.
 - If law enforcement responds to a 911 alternative call, together with support team members, they will, whenever possible, approach the calls without sirens and lights, and turn radios down or off during interaction.
 - Law enforcement personnel will use skills and techniques learned in training as outlined above with physical intervention as a last resort.
3. A community outreach plan will be developed and implemented by law enforcement together with people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, advocacy groups and allies.

The plan will include:

- Regularly scheduled meetings with self advocates from the local community
- Regularly scheduled meetings with providers and other concerned stakeholders from the local community
- Re-evaluation every two years together with people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, advocacy groups, allies, self-advocates, providers and other concerned stakeholders from the local community
- Participation from law enforcement officers that is representative of all ranks within the department, with at least 50% of department personnel participating in a minimum of one meeting annually

- Review of every incident in which law enforcement uses any form of physical intervention during an interaction with a community member who has an Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability.
4. The application and hiring process for local law enforcement officers will be evaluated and adjusted to include:
- Social and emotional intelligence testing
 - Screening for awareness of factors that influence the outcome of police interactions with individuals from marginalized communities (disability, race, socioeconomic status, gender identity, etc.)
 - Community member involvement at all stages of the application and hiring process including final disposition of candidates

For more information, please contact Meg Cooch, Executive Director of the Arc of Illinois, (773) 558-5136, meg@thearcofil.org, or

Phil Milsk, The Arc of Illinois lobbyist, (815) 685-8553, philmilsk@aol.com.