

March 2021 Roll-Call Briefing Training

Policing Mental Illness

(Mental Health – Responding to Individuals in Crisis)

Law enforcement officers are increasingly the first responders to incidents involving people with mental illness. Without proper training and expertise, confrontations taking place amid an already-charged atmosphere can escalate quickly. Unlike the tools carried on our belts and tac vests, effective communication skills can be essential in successfully maneuvering through these encounters.

Below is a link that will take you directly to a 1-hour YouTube video titled, **A Different Kind of Force—Policing Mental Illness**. This video takes a neutral view as it follows a special plainclothes unit of the San Antonio Police Department which is trained specifically to handle mental health calls. It offers a look at the U.S. mental health system today and explores the complex and often fraught relationship between the mentally ill and law enforcement.

San Antonio PD has roughly 12x's the number of officers as Fontana PD, and they can only dedicate 10 officers to their special unit. Fontana PD clearly does not have the resources to dedicate a 10-officer unit that is trained in responding to mental health calls. However, the stories, discussions, and testimonies can have a positive influence in how we as officers, in any assignment, interact with and maneuver through contacts with those claiming or clinically deemed to have a mental illness.

Follow the below instructions to keep each training around 30 minutes.

- 1) Click on the below link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnOLvKEYIQI>

Day 1 – Play from the beginning until 22min 10sec (Discussion after the video as you see fit)

Day 2 - Start at 22min 10sec - stop at 43min 00 sec (Discussion as you see fit afterwards)

Day 3 - Start at 43min 00 sec – Finish at end... (Discussion again)