

<b>WINTHROP POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>		Department Manual: Policy No. <b>4.32</b>
<b>Subject: RECOVERY TEAM DEPLOYMENT POLICY</b>		
MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCED: <b>1.1.3; 1.2.6; 1.2.7</b>		<b>GENERAL ORDER</b>  <b>15-14</b>
Effective Date: <b>November 20, 2015</b>  Revision Date: <b>March 28, 2016</b>	Issuing Authority   <b>Terence Delehanty</b> Chief of Police	

**I. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish written guidelines within the Winthrop Police Department concerning the functions and responsibilities of the Recovery Team. The purpose of the Recovery Team is to respond to the increasing crisis if not epidemic levels of Opioid abuse. The Recovery Team allows the Winthrop Police Department to respond to drug use, abuse, and overdose incidents in a more compassionate and effective manner and to address the root causes of the problem and not just a symptom of the problem (i.e., drug use, stealing, breaking and entering, Narcan use etc.). By using the emergency response and team approach to critical flare ups we feel we will be able to reach more people who are in need of help.

It is further the purpose of this policy to make officers aware of this service and to provide them with an understanding that recovery is not easy and in fact people can and often do experience many relapses before finding their way to recovery. It is this department’s belief that there is an addiction, sobriety, and relapse cycle to substance use, abuse, and overdose that needs a true community policing response to facilitate harm reduction, improve community and individual quality of life, and increase the likelihood of longer periods of sobriety with the ultimate goal of complete recovery. People need more access to help during times of active addiction and they need support during the entire cycle of addiction, sobriety, and relapse.

**II. TEAM MAKE UP:**

The team make up shall consist of the Public Health Nurse for the Town of Winthrop and certified recovery coaches. The Winthrop Police Department shall assign a liaison officer who shall communicate with the other members of the recovery team on an as needed basis. The purpose of the liaison officer is to gather data from other officers, the public, and police reports to identify people who need the team's services. The liaison officer will be required to complete the recovery coach training to broaden his/her understanding of their process and method of operation.

**III. CONFIDENTIALITY:**

Understanding that people who are addicted to any substance could feel humiliated embarrassed, vulnerable and hostile towards their particular situation, the Winthrop Police Department is committed to keeping information of those individuals involved in the recovery system confidential. Further understanding that law enforcement officers perceive their job functions as crime fighters and not social workers, the Winthrop Police Department prohibits Officers from contacting the Recovery Team for information about any individual with whom they have been involved, with the exception of a life threatening reason to obtain such information.

Open communication of the Recovery Team and their clients is vital. Any information will be treated with the utmost care.

**IV. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This policy's start date became effective on March 1, 2016 and it shall remain in effect until amended, modified and/or rescinded by the Chief of Police.

**V. DEFINITIONS**

- A. Public Health Nurse- A designated employee of the Town of Winthrop who functions as one part of the Recovery Team facilitating supervision over the Recovery Coaches and participating in case management meetings to further assist clients.
- B. Consumers/ Clients- A term commonly used by the community when referring to an individual with suspected substance abuse or who is involved in a crisis and utilizes recovery services.
- C. Substance Abuse – Any drug use, abuse, or overdose situations that need specialized attention as outlined in this policy. Substance Abuse shall also be defined liberally to include alcohol and other legal substances that may be additive in nature.
- D. Recovery Coaches (RC) – Individuals certified in the Massachusetts Recovery Coach Model who work in the field connecting people to the recovery community.

- E. Liaison Officer/ Recovery Coach Officer (RCO) – A designated and trained sworn officer who has specific duties as relates to this policy, the community, and the recovery coaches.

## **VI. GENERAL**

- A. The Department’s Recovery Team is composed of a specially trained officer (RCO) whose function is to coordinate the response of the Recovery Team. The officer’s specialized skills may be used to successfully assist people in the initial recovery process immediately after being revived during an overdose episode and/or to reduce the likelihood of future arrest.
- B. The policies contained in this SOP do not supersede those outlined in SOP’s involving use of force or the notification of specialized units for incidents where the situation requires such a notification, (i.e., the Detective Bureau or Narcotics, etc)

## **VII. SELECTION OF PERSONNEL**

- A. The Department Recovery Coach Officer (RCO) shall have primary responsibility for the selection of the other officers on the team with guidance from supervisors within the Department.

Commanding officers shall ensure an adequate number of officers are informed about and/or trained in the Massachusetts Recovery Coach Model to facilitate the goals of this policy relative to calls for service on their shifts.

- B. Other officers that may become part of the Recovery Team shall be non-probationary officers with no less than 1 year of police experience and shall possess no less than a one day training on the implications of this policy and/or the one week Massachusetts Recovery Coach Academy Training.

## **VIII. PROCEDURE**

### **A. Dispatch of calls**

1. When the Communications Center receives a report of a situation that is known to be substance use, abuse and/or overdose related the dispatcher shall immediately dispatch the closest available units. It may be the case that the RCO is also the closest available unit and the first to respond. The officer shall give all life saving measures including the use of Narcan. All appropriate information will be gathered while being mindful that contact information is vital to connect consumers/ clients with help as outlined by this policy.

2. The Officer who responded shall complete an incident report about the situation including all biographical information of the person suffering from substance use, abuse, or overdose (which includes alcohol), regardless of the drug or substance they are struggling with. The reporting officer shall send the RCO an email to advise him of the incident. As much information as possible will be gathered so that the RCO can easily offer services by making contact with the consumer or client.

**B. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PEER RECOVERY LIAISON OFFICER**

1. The primary responsibility of the RCO is to inform the public and any person who may be in need of the program services.
2. Once a person is contacted by the RCO and is willing to talk to the Recovery Coaches, the RCO shall notify the Recovery Coaches of the person's willingness to talk to them. At this time, all biographical data and phone numbers will be sent to the Recovery Coaches.
3. Once the Recovery Coaches have made contact, the RCO should withdraw from the situation, unless asked by the Coaches to stay involved due to safety concerns or because of the relationship the officer has developed with the subject talking to the Recovery Coaches..
4. The RCO should meet periodically with the Recovery Coaches to perform case reviews and discuss statistical information. At times, the public health nurse will be involved in the case management meeting. The primary purpose of these meetings will be to identify consumers or clients who may need to be contacted again and offered services again.
5. The RCO shall have the responsibility for completing the Recovery spreadsheet and form. The Recovery Spreadsheet and Form will be used to understand who has been contacted, who may need to be re-contacted, and the effectiveness of the Recovery Team.
6. The RCO shall also meet with the Drug Court and introduce the Recovery Coaches to the Court System. This will ensure that an interconnected holistic approach will be fostered to tackle this complex human condition.
7. The RCO shall also contact recent graduates of the drug court with the assistants of the Recovery Coaches, to ensure their continued success.
8. The RCO will also be responsible in coordinating with the Suffolk County Sherriff's Dept. on the community reentry program. This will be done to provide services to anyone who needs the Recovery Teams attention, upon reentry.