TASC’s Center for Health and Justice

First-Responder Trauma

May 28, 2020
Bureau of Justice Assistance

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Policy Advisor
Bureau of Justice Assistance
Office of Justice Programs
CHJ COSSAP Team

- TTA provider for COSSAP FRD grantees since 2017
- BJA/COSSAP lead on first responder trauma

Jac Charlier  
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Project Executive Lead

Ben Ekelund  
Director  
Project Lead

Hope Fiori  
Administrator  
Project Specialist

Nikki Muñoz  
Administrator  
Project Specialist
Center for Health and Justice (CHJ)

- Grounded in TASC’s 45+ years of *operational experience* providing specialized case management to individuals with a SUD and MH across the justice system
- International/national TTA leadership and expertise in areas of deflection, pre-arrest diversion, first-responder diversion (FRD), diversion along the justice continuum – with a focus on courts and jails, alternatives to incarceration, and best reentry practices for individuals with a SUD
- Perform Treatment Capacity, Sustainability, and Specialized Case Management TTA with sites
Investigating Opioid Crisis First Responder Impact

AHP Collaboration Supervised by COSSAP TA Director, Pam Rainer

Senior Research Associate Niki Miller
- Initial scan of research, information and tools available to the field
- Interview transcript review and summary documents
- Analysis and initial report of qualitative data

Senior Program Manager Laurie Curtis, MA, CPRP
- Served as second interviewer
- Assisted with research tasks and project management

Senior Program Associate Becky Berkebile
- Assisted with interviews
Learning Objectives

• Describe two ways the opioid crisis can affect the community and first responder agencies and staff.

• Identify at least one sign that can indicate how first responders dealing with the opioid crisis are experiencing stress/secondary trauma/compassion fatigue.

• Discuss what resources exist, and identify at least one tool the field requires to specifically address first responder trauma and stress that result from new challenges posed by the opioid crisis.

• List a priority step COSSAP grantee programs can take to promote first-responder resilience.
Agenda

1. Introduction to the FR Trauma project and today’s webinar
2. Brief overview of project’s purpose and methodology
3. Niki Miller, AHP, Discussion of Key Findings
4. Live Interview with Chief Debora Black, Prescott, AZ
5. Discussion: How can COSSAP help the field?
6. Question and Answer
Let us know your thoughts!

• Enter comments in the chat box at any time

• We want to hear from you about what your agency has in place to support FR trauma

• If we can’t get to all questions in Q&A –we will follow up!

• Please email questions, comments, suggestions: hfiori@tasc.org
First-Responder (FR) Trauma Project

Task: impact of trauma exposure and available supports
- Law enforcement officers
- Firefighters
- Paramedics/EMS

Report Intro: on the frontlines of the opioid crises

Methodology: capturing the unique perspectives of key informants
Audience Poll #1
Key Findings

Niki A. Miller, MS, CPS
Senior Research Associate
Advocates for Human Potential, Inc.
Key findings: **Trends**

What Trends Are You Seeing?

<table>
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<th>Trends</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decreases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increases</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uptick</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polydrug use</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lay person</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>
Key findings: **Major Stressors**

- **Resources:** Not meeting demands
- **Frustration:** Repeat customers
- **Families:** Parents and children
- **Perception:** Efforts aren’t helping
- **Scope:** Duration and damage
- **Response:** Met w/ angry or mistrust
Key findings: Remedies

- Correcting **perceptions** through data on program impact
- Countering negative **responses** with appreciation
- Acknowledge **frustration** but include the voice of recovery
- More training and support: **family members or children** at scene
- **Resources**: better information and coordination, build capacity
- **Scope** duration and intensity calls for support for resilience
Key findings: **Yellow flags**

- Misdirected anger – starts small but builds quickly
- Monitor changes in absenteeism, tardiness, staff exposures
- Supervisors watch for increased substance use, sleep problems
- Callous attitude towards people with opioid problems
- Citizen complaints, angry encounters at scenes
Key findings: What’s working

![Bar chart showing key findings]

- Trauma specialists: 4
- Rotation: 5
- Debriefing: 6
- Peer support: 7
- Wellness check ins: 7
- Early action: 8
- Training: 10

BJA’s Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program
Introduction to Chief Black

Chief Debora Black
Prescott Police Department
Prescott, Arizona
In what ways is the situation affecting your 1) personnel, 2) department, and 3) broader community?

Chief Debora Black
Prescott Police Department
Prescott, Arizona

Hope Fiori, MPPA
TASC’s Center for Health and Justice
What are some challenges you’ve encountered while implementing or engaging staff in efforts to address and respond to trauma?

Chief Debora Black
Prescott Police Department
Prescott, Arizona

Hope Fiori, MPPA
TASC’s Center for Health and Justice
Audience Poll #2
Q&A

Have More Questions?

To request training and technical assistance for law enforcement and first responder diversion, or for other requests, contact CHJ:

Hope Fiori
Center for Health and Justice at TASC
(312) 573-8204
hfiori@tasc.org

Or visit the TTA request page on the COSSAP website: https://www.cossapresources.org/Program/TTA/Request