

Crime

Long Beach Center, Police Create Mental Health Training Video Series



Harry Saltzgaver Oct 20, 2018 



Patricia Constaes, LCSW, the CEO of The Guidance Center, at the Long Beach headquarters.

The Guidance Center, a Long Beach-based nonprofit child and family mental health services provider, has partnered with law enforcement agencies to create training videos helping officers deal with people experiencing mental issues.



Called the Roll Call Mental health Training Video Series, it has taken more than a year to complete. It was produced with help from the Long Beach and Los Angeles police departments and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department using their mental evaluation teams.

"There is an urgent need to address mental health differently in our communities across the country," Patricia Costales, CEO of The Guidance Center, said. "At The Guidance Center, we believe partnerships are key to making this shift... Roll Call Mental Health Training is a meaningful step in breaking the stigma around mental health through education and creating safer communities together."

Thanks to a grant from The Ahmanson Foundation, the videos can be access on the center's website, www.tgclb.org/roll-call, at no cost to any law enforcement agency in the country. There are eight 7-10 minute videos using scenario-based training.

"The new training videos give more officers and deputies access to critically important information about individuals who sffer from mental illness," LA County Sheriff Jim McDonnell said. "This resource will help provide police with some of the tools needed to increase compassion and reduce the need to use force."

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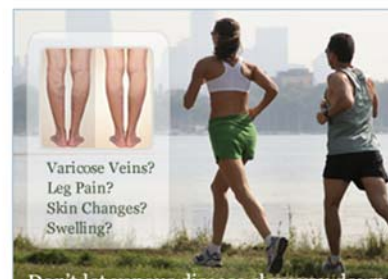


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According to a release, the video series stresses the importance of officers relying on their tactical training while providing an understanding of what people with mental health issues are going through. It also will help officers help themselves and each other as they deal with the stress and trauma of the job.

All three of the area law enforcement partners said they plan to use the series for both added training for current officers and training for recruits. It was produced by Emmy award-winning filmmaker Matthew Murray, with cinematography by Evan Barthelman and music by Mark Kirby.

For more information, go to www.tgclb.org/roll-call.

—Harry Saltzgaver