



POLICE SOCIAL WORK: EVOLUTION & IMPLEMENTATION

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History of Police Social Work

- ▣ Originated in the 1970's as a result of Professor Harvey Treger's Police-Social Service Project (Treger et. al, 1975)
- ▣ Funded by IL Law Enforcement Commission (now known as the IL Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board) as well as the cities of Wheaton and Niles
- ▣ Participating departments: Niles and Wheaton
- ▣ Philosophy: to employ social services within police departments to divert non-violent misdemeanor offenders from the criminal justice system
- ▣ Social/emotional ills vs. criminal intent

Pilot Study Outcomes

- ▣ Expanded to other target populations: domestic violence, juveniles, victims of crime, and mental health cases
- ▣ 1980's...more programs emerged designed to meet the unique needs of the community
- ▣ 1990s...continued program expansion: Neighborhood Resource Centers, Critical Incident Response, Crime Prevention and Community Education and Outreach
- ▣ UIC annual intern scholarship awarded
- ▣ Present Day: Over 62 law enforcement agencies employ police social workers in IL

What is Police-based Social Service?

A highly specialized field of clinicians...

- ▣ Provides services in police related cases, as well as, to residents requesting assistance
- ▣ Provides crisis intervention, crime scene response, death notification, assessment, counseling, community liaison and referral services
- ▣ 24-hour availability
- ▣ Serves persons of all ages and diversity
- ▣ Cooperatively interfaces with members of the police department, courts, hospitals, community agencies, and schools
- ▣ Provides professional consultation in the field on difficult cases

Police-based Social Services cont...

- ▣ Coordinates and distributes financial assistance programs
- ▣ Coordinates youth violence/youth diversion efforts
- ▣ Offers professional and law enforcement training
- ▣ Offers community presentations and education
- ▣ Tailors services to meet the specific needs of the police department, the community, the family, and the individual

Benefits of Police-based Social Services

- ▣ Minimization of officer time spent on non-criminal calls
- ▣ Enhances victim cooperation with investigations and criminal prosecution
- ▣ On-going support services and follow-up
- ▣ Reduces recidivism rates
- ▣ Available consultation with a trusted mental health professional



Benefits cont...

- ▣ Multi-disciplinary approach to difficult and complex cases
- ▣ Joint collaboration with officers to decrease risk of injury and comprehensively serve community
- ▣ Positive community relations
- ▣ Ability to target special populations and assist with chronic recurring situations
- ▣ Advise and follow up to CIT/MH trained officer intervention



Common Issues Addressed...

- ▣ Violent crimes
- ▣ DV/Child abuse
- ▣ Juvenile problems
- ▣ Traumatic incidents
- ▣ Family conflicts
- ▣ Alcohol/drug problems
- ▣ Hoarders
- ▣ Psychiatric illnesses
- ▣ Mental health concerns
- ▣ Financial needs
- ▣ Homelessness
- ▣ Geriatric concerns/abuse
- ▣ Neighbor disputes

Common Services Provided...

- ▣ 24 hour crisis intervention
- ▣ Mental health and psychological assessment
- ▣ Court advocacy for victims/witnesses of crime
- ▣ Critical incident stress management services
- ▣ Case management services
- ▣ Mediation
- ▣ Police community liaison
- ▣ Professional consultation
- ▣ Short-term counseling
- ▣ Accompany LE in death notifications and support



Common Services cont...

- ▣ Information and referral services
- ▣ Financial assistance/emergency funding
- ▣ Resources for basic needs(shelter, food, clothing)
- ▣ Program development
- ▣ Custody disputes and child exchanges
- ▣ Domestic violence follow-up and safety planning
- ▣ Family interventions(substance abuse, mental health)
- ▣ Station adjustments/peer jury
- ▣ Collaboration with school personnel and administration

Association of Police Social Services(APSS)

- ▣ Professional networking and support group
- ▣ Educational opportunities
- ▣ Case review/consultation
- ▣ Website/information sharing
- ▣ Access to an extensive resource base
- ▣ Promote the profession and ethical considerations within the context of law enforcement agencies

APSS

APSS Considerations and Recommendations...

- ❑ Follow National Association of Social Workers(NASW) and American Counseling Association(ACA) Code of Ethics
- ❑ Master's level clinician in social work or counseling related field, preferably licensed
- ❑ Preferred working knowledge of the judicial system and/or law enforcement
- ❑ 40 hour domestic violence training/IDVA
- ❑ Suggested orientation protocol
- ❑ Contractual vs. Employee agreements

APSW

APSS Member List 2020

All members are from Illinois unless otherwise specified

- AID
- Alexandria, KY.
- Arlington Heights
- Buffalo Grove
- Carpentersville
- Carol Stream
- Deerfield
- Des Plaines
- Ela Township
- Elgin
- Elk Grove Village
- Erlanger, KY.
- Family Services of Glencoe
- Glenview
- Hanover Park
- Highland Park
- Joliet
- Lincolnwood
- Lake in the Hills
- League City, TX.
- McHenry Sheriffs Dept
- Mt. Prospect
- Mundelein
- Naperville
- Niles
- Northbrook
- Palatine
- Park Ridge
- Prospect Heights
- Rolling Meadows
- Romeoville
- Schaumburg
- Skokie
- Streamwood
- Wilmette
- West Chicago
- Wheeling
- Will County Sheriff
- Winnetka

QUESTIONS?

www.policesocialwork.org

Website Under Construction

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