



Montana Public Safety Officer Standards and Training Council
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Members of the Montana Law and Justice Interim Committee:

The Montana Public Safety Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council respectfully submits the following information in response to questions posed by members of the Montana Law and Justice Interim Committee on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022.

1. Representative Bishop asked about Public Safety Communicators' (PSC) access to mental health training to also include participation in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs.
 - a. The Montana Law Enforcement Academy Public Safety Communicator Basic Curriculum, approved by the POST Council, currently contains the following instruction in Human Behavior and Social Interaction:

• Racial Profiling / Cultural Awareness	2 hours
• Interpersonal Communications	3 hours
• Ethics	2 hours
• Suicide Intervention	2 hours
• Crisis Intervention / Stress Management	2 hours
• Bullying in the Communication Center	1 hour
• Mental Health First Aid	8 hours
• Healthy Lifestyles	1 hour
	Total Hours: 21
 - b. A portion of Representative Bishop's question centered around the opportunity for existing Public Safety Communicators to receive mental health training which may not have been a part of the curriculum when they attended PSC basic.

Montana ARM 23.13.201 requires Montana's Public Safety Officers, including Public Safety Communicators, receive 20 hours of documented continuing education to maintain their eligibility for certification. The relevant subsections of the Administrative Rule are:

(2)(k): complete, within every two calendar years, 20 hours of documented agency in-service, roll call, field training, or POST-approved continuing education training credits....

(3): Every public safety communications officer, as a part of the training required in (2)(k), must complete, every two calendar years, a telephone cardiopulmonary resuscitation (TCPR) course.... The training must cover a minimum of the following topics:

...

(n) critical incident stress management...

c. Crisis Intervention Training

- Since March 5th, 2021 POST has approved six Crisis Intervention Team trainings, or courses substantially similar to CIT. Those trainings were attended by 115 Montana Public Safety Officers, as well as a few attendees such as Firefighter/EMS members.
- Of the 115 public safety officer attendees at those trainings, three (3) were certified Public Safety Communicators.
- Note: with the increase in on-line and virtual training it is likely many public safety communicators have received additional training in the area of mental health and crisis intervention that is not captured in the above data and cannot easily be captured without looking at each individual public safety communicators training transcript and in-service training records which are maintained by their employing authority or the officer themselves.

2. **POST Allegation Policy and Procedures:**

The POST Council has adopted policies and procedures as to how it evaluates and investigates allegations of misconduct by Montana's public safety officers. Please refer to Montana ARM 23.13.703 and the attached **Officer Misconduct Allegation Policy and Procedure**, as well as Attachment A and Attachment B of the policy for more information regarding POST's role and procedure when investigating complaints.

Please let the POST Bureau know if there is any additional information we can provide to the committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric S. Gilbertson, Bureau Chief
Montana POST Bureau