

Testimony of the Alzheimer's Association Greater Maryland and National Capital Area Chapters
SB 134 Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission - Training Requirements - Electronic Stalking
Position: Favorable with Amendments

Chair Smith and Vice Chair Waldstreicher,

My name is Eric Colchamiro, and I am Director of Government Affairs for the Alzheimer's Association in Maryland. The Alzheimer's Association supports SB 134, and acknowledges the importance of electronic stalking. Yet for any legislation that comes before Senate Judiciary on police training, we must learn from the Joint Chairmen's 2021 report on dementia training, and **ask for an amendment to have them also trained on dementia.**

Per the attached Joint Chairmen's Report – Q00G00.01– Police and Correctional Training Commission – Dementia Response Training Report, there are no dementia specific training standards. There have also been a series of incidents, particularly with regard to wandering, where law enforcement did not have the background to effectively engage with Marylanders who have this chronic disease.

This matters because six in 10 of the Marylanders with dementia will wander. When individuals with dementia are lost, they may show signs of anxiety, fear, or hostility — all of which can escalate to more aggressive behaviors. Law enforcement officials may engage individuals with Alzheimer's, who may present as uncooperative, disruptive, and combative when they have difficulty communicating and understanding what is happening. If law enforcement—among other first responders—are not trained, they may not understand how to effectively engage them, leading to only more problems.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of the Secretary

6852 4th Street, Sykesville, Maryland 21784
(410) 339-5000 • www.dpscs.maryland.gov

August 15, 2021

STATE OF MARYLAND

LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD LT.
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller State Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1911

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
House Office Building, Room 121
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1911

RE: Joint Chairmen’s Report – Q00G00.01– Police and Correctional
Training Commission – Dementia Response Training Report

Dear Chair Guzzone and Chair McIntosh:

Pursuant to the 2021 Joint Chairmen’s Report, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services is required to submit a report on Dementia Response Training. The reporting requirement found on page 155 of the 2021 Joint Chairmen’s Report, states:

The budget committees request that the Police and Correctional Training Commissions (PCTC), in collaboration with the Governor’s Office for Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS), conduct an evaluation on the training provided to law enforcement and other first responders who may respond to emergency calls for services related to those with dementia. The requested report should provide the following:

- the current process for reporting to law enforcement instances of neglect, criminal abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, and financial exploitation of individuals with dementia;
- the current process for responding to calls for service from Adult Protective Services and referring cases to Adult Protective Services;
- existing training standards, curriculum, and best practices related to dementia; and
- the available data on dementia-related calls including, but not limited to, cases of wandering or hostile behaviors. To the extent available, the data should be provided for each of the last 10 years. This component of the report should also include a cost-per-search analysis related to calls for wandering or missing persons with dementia

Attached is the Department's submission in satisfaction of the reporting requirement.

I hope this letter and the attachments meet with your approval. If the Department or I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Acting Director of Government and Legislative Affairs, Jennifer Beskid at jennifer.beskid@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Green
Secretary

Attachment

cc: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Members of the House Appropriations Committee
Ms. Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services
Mr. Matthew Bennett, Counsel, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Mr. Keiffer Mitchell, Jr., Chief Legislative Officer, Governor's Office
Ms. Amelia Chassé Alcivar, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office
Mr. Kenneth Weaver, Policy Analyst, House Appropriations Committee
Ms. Cathy Kramer, Department of Legislative Services
Ms. Cristina Jorge-Tuñón, Budget Analyst, Department of Budget and Management
Ms. Erin Chase, Deputy Legislative Officer, Governor's Office
Mr. Jacob Cash, Policy Analyst, Department of Legislative Services



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND
SERVICES**

CORRECTIONAL

POLICE AND CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSIONS

DEMENTIA RESPONSE TRAINING REPORT

August 15, 2021

Governor Larry Hogan
Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford
Secretary Robert L. Green

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the *2021 Joint Chairmen's Report – FY 2022 Operating and Capital Budgets* (Page 155), the Police and Correctional Training Commissions (PCTC), in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS) have been asked to submit a report to the budget committees by August 15, 2021, as it relates to dementia response training.¹ Specifically, the requested report must include an evaluation of training provided to law enforcement and other first responders who may respond to emergency calls for services related to those with dementia. In addition, the requested report must contain the following:

1. The current process for reporting to law enforcement instances of neglect, criminal abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, and financial exploitation of individuals with dementia;

¹ Department of Legislative Services. (2021). [*2021 Joint Chairmen's Report: Report on the Fiscal 2022 State Operating Budget \(HB 588\) And the State Capital Budget \(HB 590\) And Related Recommendations.*](#)

2. The current process for responding to calls for service from Adult Protective Services and referring cases to Adult Protective Services;
3. Existing training standards, curriculum, and best practices related to dementia; and
4. The available data on dementia-related calls including, but not limited to, cases of wandering or hostile behaviors. To the extent available, the data should be provided for each of the last 10 years, including a cost-per-search analysis, related to calls for wandering or missing persons with dementia.

OVERVIEW

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) oversees all aspects of supervision for sentenced inmates in the State prison system. DPSCS also houses the Police and Correctional Training Commissions (PCTC). PCTC supports two independent commissions, the Police Training and Standards Commission (PTSC) and the Correctional Training Commission (CTC).

In preparing this report, it is important for the recipients to understand that both the PTSC and the CTC were established by statute and prescribed the task of establishing training requirements and standards related to the certification of police and correctional professionals in the State. Neither Commission establishes policy for the individual agencies whose employees are certified by each Commission. Therefore, surveys were sent to each police agency in the State to determine (1) the current process for reporting to law enforcement instances of neglect, criminal abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, and financial exploitation of individuals with dementia; (2) the current process for responding to calls for service from Adult Protective Services and referring cases to Adult Protective Services; and (4) data for the last 10 years, including cost-per-search analysis related to calls for wandering or missing persons with dementia.² The survey results were used to provide the information requested.

1. The current process for reporting to law enforcement instances of neglect, criminal abuse, sexual abuse, physical abuse, and financial exploitation of individuals with dementia.

Calls for service regarding individuals who may have dementia and are experiencing instances of neglect, criminal abuse, physical abuse, and/or financial exploitation are received in the same manner as all other calls for service – they are reported to an agency by a citizen, concerned individual, or in some cases Adult Protective Services via 9-1-1 or a personal contact. Of the responding agencies, there were no reporting agencies with specific policies pertaining to those with dementia. Municipal agencies reported they might handle the initial call for service and then make a referral to the investigative division of a larger county police

² It is important to note that information pertaining to existing training standards, and best practices related to dementia was not requested from agencies because the PTSC sets selection and training standards for police officers.

agency or contact Adult Protective Services. Colleges and universities reported a similar process. County agencies and Maryland State Police generally referred cases to their investigations units. Other State agencies reported assisting in searches for individuals with dementia; however, the scope of their response was limited by the type of agency they were and therefore they reported working with other agencies that were the lead investigatory agencies.

2. The current process for responding to calls for service from Adult Protective Services and referring cases to Adult Protective Services.

When a call from Adult Protective Services is received, the majority of the responding agencies reported that the call is handled in the same manner as a request for a wellness check on an individual. Some agencies reported the call may be screened by a sergeant before it is referred to a patrol officer or specialized unit for investigation. Another response was that the law enforcement agency would follow up with someone from Adult Protective Services prior to conducting a wellness check, and may even conduct the check in partnership with a social worker from Adult Protective Services.

Agencies indicated officers would reach out directly to Adult Protective Services if they identified a circumstance where they believed an individual was being neglected or was otherwise in need of services. In some cases, where an agency has a specialized unit for vulnerable populations, a referral is made to the unit and their officers will follow-up with Adult Protective Services and conduct any necessary investigation.

3. Existing training standards, curriculum, and best practices related to dementia.

The PTSC sets selection (hiring) and training standards for police officers. All employees mandated by the PTSC are required to complete an entrance-level academy and field training before they can be certified as an officer. Although there are no dementia-specific training objectives, there are objectives for officers responding to individuals who are members of vulnerable populations. The entrance-level training objectives that address adults with dementia are provided in the table below:³

PTSC Entrance-Level Training Objectives
06.04 Demonstrate effective communication skills in dealing with various types of persons, i.e., hostile, angry, hysterical, intoxicated, mentally ill, young, elderly, racist, individuals with developmental disabilities.
06.04.01 Demonstrate techniques to negotiate with calm or control an emotionally distraught person who has contacted a police agency.
09.16.02 Identify what is meant by hidden disabilities.

³ Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions. MPTC Police Entry Level Objectives (Effective 07/01/2016).

09.17.07 Describe the importance of using community resources to assist the officer.
09.22.06 Identify factors to be considered when handling mentally disturbed or irrational persons, such as ignore verbal abuse, avoid excitement.
12.07.01 Identify the booking process for adult offenders with medical condition, i.e. injury or illness.
12.07.03 Identify the required notification procedures an officer must make when handling adult prisoners with a medical condition; i.e., intoxicated, injured, ill.
12.07.05 Identify the booking process for adult offenders with mental illnesses or emotional instability.

The PTSC mandates that certified officers complete a minimum of 18 hours of annual inservice training to maintain their certification as an officer. The PTSC does not mandate the training topics. However, the PCTC, as the administrative staff for the PTSC, does track compliance with training topics that have been mandated by the Maryland legislature, such as first aid and lifesaving techniques, and rape and sexual assault training.

4. The available data on dementia-related calls including, but not limited to, cases of wandering or hostile behaviors. To the extent available, the data should be provided for each of the last 10 years, including a cost-per-search analysis, related to calls for wandering or missing persons with dementia.

In general, the responding agencies reported that data is maintained in a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and to obtain the information requested would require them to contact the agencies that provide the CAD services. In addition, the CAD may not record the calls for service as specifically being dementia-related; therefore, the data provided would most likely be underreported. The agencies that provided data specific to dementia-related calls for service are listed below:

Agency Name	Description
Bowie Police Department	The department received dementia-related calls for service in 2016 (9 calls); 2018 (4 calls); 2019 (9 calls); 2020 (6 calls); and 2021 (17 calls). They also used the Prince George's County Police Department's bloodhound in 2018 (1); 2019 (2); and 2020 (5).

Hagerstown Community College Police	HCC Behavior Intervention and Care Team was alerted to an elderly male that enrolled in classes and was on campus on April 19, 2021. Subject seemed confused and disoriented. He was enrolled in a Con Ed class, but never showed up. This matter was forwarded to the Dean of Students for follow up. No HCC Police involvement at the time of the incident. No cost incurred. No determination if the subject had dementia. No other reports available for HCC Campus Police.
Natural Resources Police	The NRP data goes back to October 2013. NRP is the primary agency for persons missing in state parks and on state waters; however, most of their involvement with dementia cases are assisting the reporting agency with their search. Most calls were of a short duration, 1 hour or less. A complete breakdown is provided in Appendix A.
Maryland Transit Police	In 2020, dementia and/or Alzheimer's was listed in 2 officer reports and 4 field interviews reports. Each report would have to be analyzed to determine the circumstances.
Maryland National Capital Park Police – Prince George's County	<p>On November 22, 2020, an officer responded for female wandering around without sufficient clothing. A computer check revealed her to be reported missing from the District of Columbia and suffering from dementia. She was transported to the hospital and released to the appropriate agency.</p> <p>On October 10, 2020, an officer found elderly gentleman banging on the door of the police substation. The gentleman was found to be reported missing through the Prince George's County Police Department and suffering from dementia. The contact person listed was notified as well as the fire department and the reporting</p>
	<p>agency. The gentleman was released to his daughter on the scene.</p> <p>On April 2, 2020, an officer found elderly female wandering around a closed facility on MNCPPC property. Female was found to be missing from the District of Columbia and suffering from dementia. She was released to her son.</p> <p>On September 18, 2015, elderly male suffering from dementia walked away from a picnic being held by his caregivers. Extensive search was unsuccessful. Male was found approx. 1 month later deceased in a field.</p>

