



**FELMERS O. CHANEY
ADVOCACY BOARD**

**6373 N. 106th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53225
Tel: (414) 444-4579; (414) 442-3775
July 19, 2018**

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In Memory Of:

Felmers O. Chaney
(1918 – 2012)

Bureau Director Dennis Fortunato
Wisconsin Department of Justice
Training & Standards Bureau
17 W. Main St.
Post Office Box 7070
Madison, WI 53707-7070

Re: FCAB Mental Health Committee Recommendations

Dear Director Fortunato,

We are writing to you as members of the Felmers Chaney Advocacy Board's (FCAB's) mental health committee. FCAB is an advocacy board composed of private citizens guided by a shared concern for social justice, corrections policy, and the successful re-entry of former inmates as they return to their communities. It is not an overstatement to say that we have become quite energetic in our wish to interface with you. This is due to an FCAB focus on promoting successful re-integration via improved law enforcement (e.g., community policing) and corrections policy. The mental health committee is oriented specifically to law enforcement and correctional interactions with individuals who have mental health concerns.

We would like to commend the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Board for its efforts in increasing mental health training to law enforcement officers, as part of the updated Law Enforcement Basic Training 720 Hour Curriculum, which increased Crisis Management from 16 hours to 20 hours. Regarding the training, the committee wishes to recommend for consideration the utilization of credentialed instructor (LPC, LCSW, LMFT) to instruct or co-instruct (with a certified law enforcement instructor) the 20-hour *Crisis Management* topic required of law enforcement recruits. Credentialed instructors, we believe, also should be utilized to instruct or co-instruct the required 12-hour *Supervision of Inmates with Special Needs* topic required of correctional officers. We believe that the addition of licensed clinicians will enhance the mental health specific law enforcement and correctional training of recruits with the result that they will be better prepared to deal with the ambiguity inherent in police and correctional work.

The LESB does certify licensed mental health professions (LPC, LCSW, LMFT) to instruct *Crisis Management* as well as *Victims, Sexual Assault, Domestic, and Child Maltreatment* for law enforcement recruits and *Supervision of Inmates with Special Needs* for corrections recruits. Based upon a WILEnet search for instructors certified to instruct *Crisis Management and Special Needs*, it appears that only the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) and Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) have credentialed instructors in that area. In our view, this is inadequate.

Similarly, we believe that officers would benefit from 4 hours of suicide prevention/assessment training [such as the Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR)

"Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are" – Benjamin Franklin

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." –Margaret Mead

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curriculum]. Increasing the participation of licensed professionals in providing training could be accomplished relatively painlessly by increasing their presence during recertification cycles requiring 24 hours of instruction/training annually.

We would very much like to discuss these suggestions with you. We look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully, FCAB

Mental Health Committee
/S/ **Martina Gollin-Graves**
/S/ **Kay Koneazny**
/S/ **Patricia Obletz**

Committee Email Addresses
martina@mhawisconsin.org
konezchs@sbcglobal.net
Obletz@sbcglobal.net

Respectfully,
/S/ **Barbara Becker,**
Barbara Becker, 1st Vice Chair
Felmers O. Chaney Advocacy Board
Tel: (414) 352-8843; Cell: (414) 943-8843
Email: slackbarbara@ameritech.net