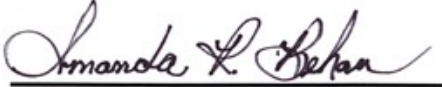




WINCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATION ORDER

NOTE: This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee’s civil liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or case in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this Department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

Number 2-78		Effective Date March 18, 2024	Review Date February 15, 2024	Reviewing Division Administration
Subject Peer Recovery Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Amends <input type="checkbox"/> Replaces:	This policy shall apply to personnel assigned to the following divisions:		
References		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Personnel <input type="checkbox"/> Patrol Division <input type="checkbox"/> Administration Division <input type="checkbox"/> Investigation Division		
 _____ Chief of Police or Designee		_____ March 18, 2024 Date		

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for the Winchester Police Department’s Peer Recovery Program.

II. POLICY

The Winchester Police Department may establish a Peer Recovery Program to address the community impact of the nationwide substance abuse crisis. The Peer Recovery Program may include positions such as an Addiction Response Officer and a Peer Recovery Specialist. These positions include a sworn officer and a civilian employee that work within the department’s Community Resources Team.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Community Resources Team (CRT)

The Community Resource Team (CRT) works to address community issues that are not handled by conventional law enforcement functions. Their functions include partnerships with Drug Court, Mental Health Court, and other stakeholders in the Winchester community.

B. Addiction Response Officer (ARO)

The Addiction Response Officer (ARO) is a sworn position, assigned to the WPD's Community Resources Team (CRT) and works closely with our public health and safety partners in the Department of Social Services and Fire and Rescue, specifically the Community Paramedic.

C. Peer Recovery Specialist

The Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS) is a non-sworn position, available to assist individuals with obtaining services related to their recovery needs. The Peer Recovery Specialist establishes supportive relationships with community members in need from the perspective of someone who has experienced similar recovery challenges.

D. Client

Individuals seeking recovery services through the Peer Recovery Program.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Duties and Responsibilities

1. Addiction Response Officer (ARO)

- a. Follow-up with community members struggling with substance abuse to offer services/resources related to addiction recovery.
- b. Work alongside the PRS to identify client readiness to change and use communication skills to support a plan for reducing or eliminating harmful substance abuse.
- c. Facilitates positive interactions between clients and community resource organizations to foster a path to recovery.
- d. Maintain positive relationships with Drug Court and other community stakeholders with interest in addiction recovery.
- e. Should maintain a database documenting client contacts and any other information pertinent to the Peer Recovery Program (database should be regularly deconflicted with the PRS).

2. Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS)

- a. Establish supportive relationships with clients who have a history of substance abuse to aid in the establishment of recovery measures.
- b. Serve as a mentor and support system to clients by sharing personal recovery experience while maintaining appropriate professional boundaries.

- c. Conducts community outreach as requested to educate the community on substance abuse and what resources are available to access recovery.
- d. Respects and maintains professional boundaries and confidentiality with clients and WPD employees.
- e. Should maintain a database documenting client contacts and any other information pertinent to the Peer Recovery Program (database should be regularly deconflicted with the ARO).

B. Co-Responding

Co-Responding is a collaborative intervention connecting the ARO and PRS to create non-arrest pathways to treatment and services for people with substance abuse disorders. Co-responding affords the opportunity for the ARO and PRS to establish positive interactions with potential clients to facilitate a path to recovery.

C. Field Contacts

1. The Addiction Response Officer should serve as the supervisor while in the field to ensure safe interactions within the Peer Recovery Program.
2. The ARO should evaluate the safety and security of all situations prior to initiating a field contact with the PRS and that assessment should be ongoing throughout the interaction with a potential client.
3. While field contacts may be unscheduled, it is ideal for the ARO and PRS to coordinate their planned contacts prior to co-responding to the field.

D. Confidentiality

1. Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security
 - a. Peer Recovery Specialists are subject to all security guidelines set forth regarding information from the following sources.
 - (1) Criminal History Record Information (CHRI)
 - (2) National Crime Information Center (NCIC)
 - (3) Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN)
 - (4) Other sensitive law enforcement information
2. Unless otherwise directed by department policy, all law enforcement information should be considered confidential. Only information deemed critical to the co-responder model should be made available to the PRS.
3. Sworn and non-sworn members of the Winchester Police Department must meet mandatory background checks specified by FBI in the CJIS Security Policy and

by Virginia State Police in the VCIN Manual to have access to any CJIS.

4. Peer Recovery Specialists shall sign a nondisclosure agreement. Subsequent disclosure of any confidential information, verbally, in writing, or by any other means, shall be grounds for immediate dismissal and possible criminal prosecution.
5. The PRS should not address public gatherings, appear on radio or television, prepare any article for publication, act as correspondents to a newspaper or other periodical, release or divulge any information concerning the activities of the Peer Recovery Program, without permission from the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

E. Program and Personnel Evaluation

1. An evaluation of the Peer Recovery Program should be conducted on an annual basis.
2. Evaluations ensure the best use of resources available, to ensure the success of the program and provide valuable feedback to the Addiction Response Officer and Peer Recovery Specialist.