

Training Sample Syllabus

Introduction to Training & Overview

- Goals of Training
- Value of Developmental Competence
- Introduction of Behavior • Language • Timing (**BLT**) mnemonic device

The Teen Brain

Understanding how the teen brain works differently with emphasis on differences in the way teens **P>P>R**: Perceive, Process, Respond

- Key elements of adolescent development
- Impacts of Peer Pressure on Behavior
- Communication Styles
- Tactics for de-escalation and face-saving in public situations

Recognizing & Responding Effectively to Youth with Mental Health Issues One in 5 youth suffer from a mental health disorder. Current estimates suggest that somewhere between 50 and 75% of youth in the juvenile justice system have two or more mental health diagnoses for which they need treatment.

This component will help officers recognize the most prevalent mental health issues among teens and learn tactics for de-escalation of interactions with them.

Recognizing & Responding Effectively to Traumatized Youth

The role of trauma in youths' responses is key to understanding many of their reactions to authority. This component describes sources of trauma in addition to the impact of trauma on youths': brain functions, psyche, and behavior. Officers will learn tactics used by psychologists to respond effectively to youth and promote trauma-sensitive approaches.

Ask the Good Doctor

Officers are invited to ask the psychologist/psychiatrist questions about youth behavior they have witnessed as well as questions about handling situations they may encounter.

Community Demographics & Cultural Factors for Officers

Review of risk factors present in communities and top predictors for involvement in delinquency, special emphasis on truancy and foster care youth, and share data on how gaps in safety nets become youth issues that lead to involvement of law enforcement.

Survey of cultural and media messages that compete with and oppose traditional authority.

This component reviews topics including parenting, pervasive cultural views on conflict resolution, the role and power of social media, and bullying.

Gender Roles and Expectations Impacting Teens

Biological and brain differences between males and females impacts youth's behaviors. How do socialization processes for boys and girls in American society work? What are the ramifications for you?

Juvenile Justice for Law Enforcement Part I

Research on Impacts of Policing Approaches on Youth Offending

- U.S. Supreme Court Adoption of Developmental Approach
- State Court interpretation of Supreme Court post-*JDB v. North Carolina*
- Federal Policy trends and Pressures
- State Policy trends & Implications for Law Enforcement

Asserting Authority Effectively with Teens

Summary of research and evidenced-based best practices for officers working with youth, discussion with officers.

What TO Do: Connecting Youth to Youth-Serving Community Based Programs

- Identify community-based assets
- Demonstrate impact of assets on offending
- Showcase youth-serving community based organizations and 4 program types

Trying it On For Size

Local youth participate in skits enacting typical school-based scenarios. The skits are interrupted to ask students why they respond to assertion of authority in the manner they do. In addition to the skits, a structured conversation is facilitated.

Conclusion & Evaluation

SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION
NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION