

Police need to pay attention to arrangements with mental health people that do work

The Bethlehem Gadfly Police August 13, 2020

 *Latest in a series of posts about the Bethlehem Police* 

Gadfly:

It sounds as if some people in the PD need to stop being defensive and pay more attention to what people say. The PD also needs to actually pay attention to arrangements with mental-health people that DO work, such as those in Eugene & Olympia, Oregon, and in Austin, Texas.

Perhaps Captain Kott will be able to help with this, although academic studies don't always have much connection to life on the ground. They need to understand what can trigger "resistance" by someone they want to talk to. The programs the Captain mentioned [implicit bias, cultural diversity, procedural justice, and trauma-informed interviewing] have great potential, but have a mixed record, often resulting in little significant change. (This could result from a command structure that doesn't necessarily fully embrace or understand them.)

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