




Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission

P.O. Box 1489 | Tallahassee, FL 32302-1489 | (850) 410-8600

CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION **TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM 2023-15**

Date: August 29, 2023

TO: Criminal Justice Agency Administrators
Criminal Justice Training Center Directors
Criminal Justice Selection Center Directors

FROM: Director Chad Brown 
Criminal Justice Professionalism Division

SUBJECT: Approval of Specialized Course, #1421, Recognize and Respond to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Emergencies

The 2021 Florida Legislature passed House Bill 7051, creating s. 943.1735, F.S. It directs the Commission to "establish standards for instruction of officers in the subject of use of force" for basic recruit training courses. In response, Commission staff reviewed current basic recruit courses and supplemented the 2022 materials as needed. Staff then sought input from agencies to determine whether there was a need for post-basic training on these same use of force subjects and found that there was.

Commission staff worked with members of the Florida Crisis Intervention Team coalition to develop a one-day training to teach current law enforcement officers how to recognize the common symptoms and characteristics of an individual with a substance abuse disorder or a mental illness and how to appropriately respond to such symptoms and characteristics.

On August 10, 2023, the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission approved the new 8-hour Specialized Course, #1421, Recognize and Respond to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Emergencies.

Instructors may access the course through the curriculum materials website:

<http://www.fdle.state.fl.us/ATMS/STC.aspx>.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Training and Research Manager, Rob Bates at RobertBates@fdle.state.fl.us or (850) 410-8672.

cc: Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission