

Initiating Conversations to Reduce Harm
Across Care Settings
Law Enforcement Perspective

David B. Goldstein, PhD, MSPH

Chief

Franklin Police Department

dgoldstein@franklinnh.org

Socrates Was Right

- Is there a Law Enforcement perspective?
- Is Harm Reduction a role for contemporary Law Enforcement?
- If so, at what point should/does Law Enforcement assume a role?
- If so, how does contemporary Law Enforcement prepare for this additional role?

Today...

- The police function has changed to include non-traditional areas
- More special needs individuals come into contact with the police
 - Deinstitutionalization
 - Independent living centers
 - Voluntary detoxification
 - Government subsidies

Today...

- Available Tools
 - Arrest
 - Protective custody
 - Civil commitment
 - Mediation
 - Referral

Police Responsibilities

- Philosophy and Practice
 - Intervene successfully
 - Change future behavior
- Too simplistic given the problems at hand?

Can We Arrest Our Way Out Of This Problem?

Well...can we?

Sure We Can...

- If...we...
 1. Suspend the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 5th Amendments (to start)
 2. Increase available resources (e.g., person power, money, etc..)
- Apply #2 to #1...

Ludicrous?

- Yes, but...in order to succeed...
- Increase awareness
- More education and training
- Buy-in and investment
- Legislative involvement