



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Child Development-Community Policing The Police-Mental Health Partnership



The Southeast Regional Training Center of the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence

Program Goals:

- To ensure that identified children and families receive developmentally appropriate, timely interventions following exposure to violence and other trauma, preventing the onset of serious emotional disturbance.
- To increase the awareness among police officers about the needs of children who have been exposed to violence, abuse, neglect, and other trauma.
- To establish closer working relationships between police officers, mental health clinicians, and child protective service workers, ensuring a coordinated community response to children and families experiencing, abuse, neglect, exposure to violence, and other trauma.



Participating Agencies:

- City of Charlotte, [Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department \(CMPD\)](#)
- Mecklenburg County Health Department, [Trauma and Justice Partnerships](#)
- Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services Youth & Family Services (DSS/YFS)

***TO REPORT SUSPICION OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY, CALL: 704-336-CARE (2273).**

Staff:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Captain Jim Wilson, CMPD Community Health & Wellness Division ▪ Sarah M. Greene, LCSW, Program Administrator of Trauma & Justice Partnerships ▪ Stacey Butler, LCSW, CD-CP Program Director ▪ Anna George, LPC, CD-CP Clinical Supervisor ▪ Adam Levine, LCSW, CD-CP Clinical Supervisor ▪ Sue Betts, Sr. Q & T Specialist ▪ Shawn Booth, LPC-A, CD-CP Clinician ▪ Luz Velez, LCSW-A, CD-CP Clinician (bi-lingual) ▪ Johanna Covault, LCSW-A, CD-CP Clinician | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amanda Crowder, LCSW, CD-CP Clinician ▪ Katy Duarte, LCSW, CD-CP Clinician ▪ Prestial Fulmore, Administrative Assistant ▪ Lea Glaze, Sr. Q & T Specialist ▪ Aysia Graves, LCSW, CD-CP Clinician ▪ Adarius Jackson, LCSW-A, CD-CP Clinician ▪ Kimberly James-Williams, LCSW, CD-CP Clinician ▪ Keith Pedersen, Research Assistant ▪ Denise Polk, LPC-A, Sr. Q & T Specialist ▪ Tiffany Sanders, LCSW, CD-CP Clinician ▪ Erin Schroeder, LCSW, CD-CP Clinician ▪ Valorie Williams, CD-CP Administrative Assistant |
|---|--|

Program Overview:

A gunfight erupts in a local housing project, and a five-year-old girl is struck in the leg by a stray bullet. Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers are the first responders on scene. Recognizing the psychological trauma that could develop for the victim and her family, they call their mental health partner, the Child Development-Community Policing (CD-CP) on-call clinician. She responds to the scene in minutes to partner with the officer to provide acute trauma services to the child and family. When the team suspects neglect due to lack of supervision, a Child Protective Services referral is made. The officers, clinician and child protective services worker follow up over the next few days and weeks to assess needs, provide services, and help reestablish a sense of safety and security in the home.

In 1996, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department began this collaborative initiative which makes possible the kind of intervention described above. The goals of the CD-CP program are to increase officer awareness and identification of children at risk and increase clinical assessment and service provision to those children. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg CD-CP is a replication of the parent program in New Haven, Connecticut, between the Yale Child Study Center and the New Haven Department of Police Service. The U. S. Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention recognizes the program as a successful model for others to follow and has designated Yale as the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence.



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Child Development-Community Policing The Police-Mental Health Partnership



The Southeast Regional Training Center of the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence

To begin program implementation, police officers and clinicians are cross-trained including multiple police ride-alongs for clinical staff, and child trauma and child development education for officers and police supervisors. Classes are taught by a police supervisor-clinician team. The goal of this cross-training is to have each partner understand how together they can best help a traumatized child and family, including the importance of referrals made by first responders and the critical next steps involved in getting a child the help they need as quickly as possible. This strong working partnership is the foundation for the success of the CD-CP.

A CD-CP clinician is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for consultation and intervention. Officers on the scene can access their mental health partner whenever they encounter a child impacted by violence or other trauma. CD-CP staff participate in a weekly program conference to plan follow-up clinical, child protection, and police interventions.

In Charlotte, the pilot project began in the Metro division, a 5-square mile area on the westside with a high incidence of violent crime and a large population of families with children. The program expanded into North Tryon in 1998, into Freedom and Steele Creek in 2001, Westover in 2004, Eastway in 2006, Providence in 2007, and University City & Hickory Grove Divisions in 2014. The current plan is to expand into all thirteen CMPD patrol divisions by 2016.

Program Data (June 2015):

- Over 32,513, cases referred, with an average of 2 children per case. A total of 3,386 families (5,651 children) were referred July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.
- On average, approximately 50% of all referrals are a result of domestic violence and 44% of all families include at least one child under the age of six years. 10% of referred CD-CP families are Spanish-Speaking.
- Approximately 1400 officers have been trained, including 150 supervisors.
- The CD-CP curriculum is established for credit through the police training academy.
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg CD-CP representatives and faculty at the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence at Yale University have provided consultation and technical assistance on program replication to many communities and are currently working with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to improve police identifications of and responses to children exposed to violence.
- Recipient of an Honorable Mention for the Thomas M. Wernert Award for Innovations in Community Behavioral Healthcare June 2004.
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg CD-CP was designated as the Southeast Regional Training Center of the National Center for Children Exposed to Violence at Yale University March 2004.
- Recipient of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Outstanding County Program Award 2002.

For more information on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg CD-CP, contact the following:



Sarah M. Greene, LCSW

Program Administrator of Trauma & Justice Partnerships
980-314-8620 or Sarah.Greene@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

Stacey Butler, LCSW

CD-CP Director, 704-591-0061 or
Stacey.Flaherty@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov

Major Johnny Jennings

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department
704-336-2328 or jjennings@cmpd.org

Captain Jim Wilson

Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department
704-432-0197 or jwilson1@cmpd.org

CD-CP is recognized as a model program by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).