

Guest Speaker – Ernie Stevens



Ernie Stevens

Director of Law Enforcement,
Council of State Governments,
Justice Center

- Ernest (Ernie) Stevens is a published author with a #1 best selling book on Amazon titled: ***Mental Health and De-escalation: A Guide for Law Enforcement Professionals***. Ernie was also a contributing author of ***Police Mental Barricade***.
- Ernie was a police officer for 28 years, serving 26 of those years with the San Antonio Police Department where he was a founding member of the Mental Health Unit. Ernie has been featured on the Emmy Award Winning HBO Documentary, **Ernie and Joe: Crisis Cops**. He has also been featured in NBC's documentary, **A Different Kind of Force**. Ernie was interviewed by ABC's Nightline's Byron Pitts and featured on officers trained to respond to mental illness calls. Ernie has been featured in over 42 publications and deemed an expert in Crisis Intervention Training.
- Ernie is a graduate of Wayland Baptist University and holds a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice. Ernie was one of the founding members of the San Antonio Police Department's Mental Health Unit. Ernie continues to assist law enforcement agencies around the nation by providing technical assistance and best practice approaches to mental health crisis calls. Ernie currently serves as the deputy director of law enforcement for the Council of State Governments Justice Center where he works closely with the Dept of Justice to assist agencies across the nation develop and strengthen their crisis response models.



CRISIS SYSTEMS RESPONSE
TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

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Guest Speaker – Sofia Hernandez



Sofia Hernandez, J.D.
Deputy City Attorney,
City of Durham

- Sofia serves as Deputy City Attorney for the City of Durham. Her portfolio is predominantly focused on public safety and code enforcement departments. She serves as general counsel to the Durham Fire Department, Neighborhood Improvement Services, Emergency Communications, and Inspections. She has served as general counsel to the Community Safety Department since the launch of its first response team in June 2022.
- In addition to her work for Durham, Sofia serves as Chair of the Alternatives to Policing Working Group of the International Municipal Lawyers Association. Sofia also enjoys teaching. She taught first year law students as a Senior Lecturing Fellow at Duke University School of Law. She teaches North Carolina Code Officials at the UNC School of Government.
- Sofia is fluent in Spanish. She was born in Honduras and immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 7. She also studied law at the Universidad Austral in Buenos Aires, Argentina and served as a clerk for the Hon. Jose Fuste in the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.
- Growing up, she lived in New Orleans and Seattle. More recently, she has lived in Durham for over 15 years. Sofia is a graduate of Seattle University (B.A. 2006) and Duke University School of Law (J.D. 2009).

Guest Speaker – W. Andrew Dameron



W. Andrew Dameron, CPE
Director of 9-1-1,
Department of Public Safety,
City and County of Denver

- Andrew Dameron serves as the Director of 9-1-1 for the City and County of Denver. A Denver area native, Andrew has led emergency communications teams in a wide variety of fields, including 9-1-1, healthcare, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- Andrew is an inaugural member of the Council of State Government's Expanding First Response Commission where he works to educate national and international stakeholders and advocate for the dispatch of trauma-informed and community-based response programs through 9-1-1.
- He is a Certified Public Safety Executive through the Association for Public Safety Communications (APCO) and serves the State of Colorado as a voting member of the State's 9-1-1 Advisory Task Force. Andrew is the current President of the Board of Directors for the Colorado 9-1-1 Resource Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides free training, guidance, and resources for 9-1-1 Authorities across the state of Colorado.
- He holds a Bachelors in Criminal Justice from Colorado State University, and a Masters in International Security from the University of Denver.



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A Law Enforcement Perspective

with **Ernie Stevens**

Director of Law Enforcement,
Council of State Governments, Justice Center



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A Legal Perspective with Sofia Hernandez, J.D.

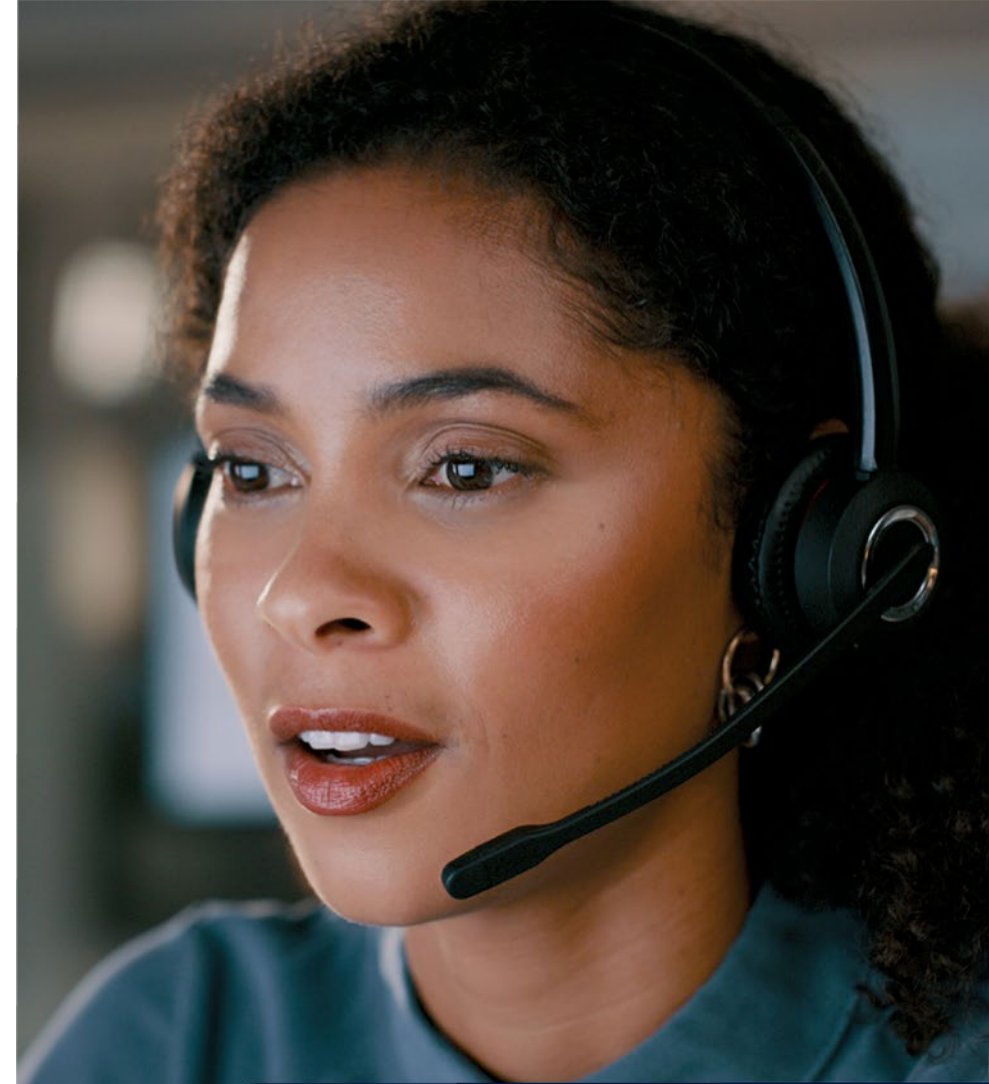
Deputy City Attorney, City of Durham



A 911 Perspective

with **W. Andrew Dameron, CPE**

Director of 9-1-1, Department of Safety,
City & County of Denver



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EVALUATION SURVEY



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SAMHSA

Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

Information Exchange

Tiffany Russell, Chief of Crisis & Justice Initiatives,
SAMHSA's 988 Behavioral Health Coordinating Office

Tiffany.Russell@samhsa.hhs.gov

SAMHSA's 988 Crisis Systems Response, TTAC

- support@988crisisttac.org
- [844-464-8338](tel:844-464-8338) (toll free)



[Crisis Systems Response Training and Technical Assistance | SAMHSA](#)

This project is supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. The Crisis Systems Response Training & Technical Assistance Center works in conjunction with the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. In 2020, Congress designated the new 988 dialing code to be operated through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. SAMHSA sees 988 as a first step towards a transformed crisis care system in America. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of SAMHSA or the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

UPCOMING

Webinar Series: **“Connecting to Serve: Promising Practices for 988/911 Collaboration”**
 • **Jul 25, 2024, from 1:00-3:00 pm EST: “Session 6”**

Monthly 3C Session: **July 16, 2024 at 2:00-3:00 pm EST**



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