

MENASHA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Facility Dog
Bridging our Community



*Prepared by Officer Jeff Jorgenson
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With support and assistance from
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Hawthorne, CA PD*

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

Today Menasha has a potential opportunity to expand our K9 program to include school liaison work in crisis intervention, community relations, victim assistance, and education. The purpose of this facility therapy dog request is to explore this new opportunity and determine if we would like to become one of two police departments in the Midwest to have a K9 Officer facility therapy dog.

The Menasha Joint School District recognized the need for police in their elementary schools initially and funded for the position. The police and the community were quick to understand and recognize the necessity of this position. This elementary police school liaison partnership has proven quite successful and statistically demonstrates a wise use of community resources.

During my role as the liaison officer for the 6 elementary schools, I soon discovered a complex set of needs in the children of our community. The work I do in the schools largely revolves around assisting children in crisis. These situations arise from a number of different causes including: mental health issues, trauma, sleep deprivation, nutritional deficiencies, violence in the home, drug addiction from the moment of conception, transiency and bullying; as well as a few run-of-the-mill temper tantrums from children who are just not getting their way.

My intervention as a police officer assists the school district to protect the staff, the student in crisis, and the other students. My response requires an initial quick evaluation of safety, followed by verbal efforts to initiate a calm dialogue, unless there is a high degree of immediate risk to the student or others. As a last resort, restraint or seclusion techniques are required to assist the student to regain control of his/her body. The difficulty this strategy presents is that most students in these situations are further agitated by dialogue during the crisis, and nonverbal strategies have shown limited success.

Menasha is a changing community sandwiched within a metropolitan area. Our school population directly reflects some of the challenges met by the educators and police. On average, 63% of our elementary students qualify for free and reduced lunch. Many of these families rent homes in our neighborhoods and, when they are not able to make rent, they transition to shelters until they can afford different housing. If a family becomes homeless, the school district is required, by law, to continue to transport the students to their school so as not to interrupt the child's educational process. In the meantime, a new family moves into their old house and enrolls with the district.

The result is a large number of families that have moved in and out multiple times. It is not uncommon for these children to not even know who is picking them up on a given day or where they could be brought home. This transiency is just one hurdle toward establishing relationships with other students or teachers. When a child doesn't feel connected to school we see that manifested in aggressive behavior toward others, victimization, insubordination, depression and withdrawal. Three of the elementary

schools I serve are participating in a study of the book, "Teaching with Poverty in Mind," in order to understand the changing population in Menasha. The author, Eric Jensen, explains that children from low socioeconomic households may exhibit these previously mentioned behaviors, not due to simply "acting out," but as an exhibition of chronic stress disorder caused by the effects of poverty.

Another hurdle we are facing is the onset and diagnosis of mental health issues. Currently 312 of the 1,883 students I serve have been diagnosed, participated in or

qualified for an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP). This plan identifies areas where the student requires additional assistance in order to succeed at a task. The plan may also address options outlining the procedures to keep the student safe and the protocol for use of restraint, seclusion, or police intervention. This plan is developed by a team of educators including



classroom teachers, specialists, administrators, counselors, psychologists and parents.

The plan helps the school to respond with consistency and keeps the parent, school, and student aware of the common goal for behavior and behavior resolution. When the plan doesn't achieve success the police school liaison officer is called for intervention. Continued school staff and police interventions cause for a review of the behavior. The team will determine whether the behavior is the result of an uncontrollable mental health response or a conscious behavior choice and will adjust the plan based on the prevalence and incidence of behavior interventions.



Since my primary population in the elementary ranges from ages 4-11, my focus is not punishment and arrest but rather discovery and remediation. However, the police response during a negative behavior crisis has many unintended consequences. Administrators and I meet frequently with families to inform them of their child's progress and to inquire about regular medical and/or psychiatric care. These

meetings are difficult for families. Sometimes parents are confronted with the information that children may be referred for criminal charges should their actions continue. Sometimes parents are shocked to find their child's behavior has progressed to the point of police involvement. Although the main message of these meetings is to establish that school and police intervention are in place to assure academic success

and social welfare of the student, parents may have difficulty moving past the idea that a police officer's involvement is a punitive measure.

Some children think police are there to take them to jail, as their parents have threatened. Others have worried that police will shoot them or hurt them. Of course, all of these perceptions are absurd but they strongly affect their reality and when they are in crisis, experiencing auditory exclusion, they are compelled to physically resist. That resistance puts the child at risk for injury. Controlling four limbs, a head and a biting or spitting mouth can be quite challenging. There is always a chance that the student may be hurt unintentionally due to a slippery floor full of milk or a piece of furniture in the area if I lose my grip on a child pulling away from me. What I need is a tool I can use to distract, calm, and deescalate without verbalization and physical intervention. I believe that tool is the therapy K9 officer.

THE VISION

Thanks to the generous introduction from Hawthorne, CA Police Department, I will begin to develop a relationship with the non-profit organization, Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), to explore the need for a fully trained facility dog. Current facility dogs have been placed by CCI to work with professional caregivers that work in a variety of environments and organizations including: visitation programs, rehabilitation programs, educational programs, and to assist special crime victims going through the justice process.

A facility dog would add a new dimension to the Menasha Police Department. I would use this K9 tool to specialize in assisting children in crisis, community relations, public education, police and community interaction, special victim assistance, our own internal employee relations, and for mutual aid to our surrounding agencies that may need our assistance during their most difficult moments.

A facility dog from CCI would be fully trained with 40-60 commands and a tested temperament conducive to reducing fear and anxiety and anger. Retail value for these canine companions is over \$60,000. These canine companions are trained under severe distraction and are considered extremely obedient. After a thorough interview and placement investigation, CCI will determine if a handler qualifies for the commitment of working with one of their canine companions. The handler commitment is 10-12 years with a working life of 8-10years. The primary handler and caretaker of the dog would enroll in the CCI training program when the canine companion is ready.

HOW WOULD MPD USE A FACILITY DOG?

As with any vision, the exact implementation of a facility dog would be tailored to meet the current needs but designed to incorporate currently unknown or future needs, thus ensuring a maximum benefit. The following are some initial areas of implementation: implemented:

A facility dog would be used.....

- During the school day at elementary schools working with children in casual, educational and crisis settings (available to middle and high schools upon request)
- During community relations events
- As a tool to open communications with citizens, businesses, neighborhood groups, and community service organizations
- To assist special crime victims and help put them at ease during interviews
- To help sexual assault victims through the process at the hospital, Child Advocacy Center or at the police station, upon request
- To assist juvenile crime victims and children that are being taken out of the home due to neglect
- On patrol calls where citizens have been exposed to a traumatic situation or during a time of grief
- As a part of the Police and Fire Facility and interact with the employees on a regular basis
- To greet people in the lobby and/or calm citizens who may be disgruntled
- Internally with our own employees that are hospitalized and especially with the children of our employees who are hospitalized or injured
- As a mutual aid tool in the Fox Valley to assist police officers during debriefings for crisis or officer involved deaths/shootings
- To assist Crisis Intervention Team officers on home visits as well as Summer checks for students with concerning home environments.
- To assist with the peer support initiative

After much research into the police departments and other service organizations that use facility dogs, I am confident that there are other uses and benefits we will discover were we to implement this innovative tool. In my conversations with Captain Kauffman from the Hawthorne CA Police Department, he acknowledged that he was quite excited about the implementation of their facility dog but was very impressed by the contributions which Officer "Scottie" has accomplished. Scottie has completely ingrained their police department into the community.



Officer Scottie, Hawthorne, CA Police Department

COST

At this point, I am told that if the CCI approves the application for the dog and the handler passes the necessary checks, it will take a little over a year to train and implement the facility dog. **The CCI does not require any payment of the \$60,000 in costs.** If CCI agrees with the need, the canine companion is provided free of charge to the department.

The department costs would be minimal: uniform and equipment, food and medical visits and the handler two week and annual post training. As a service dog, our Officer would not require any specialized vehicle as he/she would go where the handler goes. These dogs while working fall under the ADA protections to allow their passage into areas where the handler would go. I believe these minimal costs could easily be recouped through fundraising. Hawthorne PD estimates the annual cost at about \$2000-\$3000 and their return on investment immeasurable.

****Note:** This informational report is an abridged summary of the possible implementation of a facility dog to complement our current K9 program.

UPDATE SINCE INITIAL PUBLICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT IN MARCH 2015

Below is the Canine Companions for Independence application process and the steps that have been accomplished. The continuation of the application process will certainly incur costs from the City. As you can see we are nearing the end of the process which will now require financial and official support from the Menasha Common Council as well as official support from the Menasha Joint School District Board of Education.

- ✓ **STEP 1:** Complete the online application request or contact us 1-800-572-BARK to receive one in the mail.
- ✓ **STEP 2:** Once we receive your completed application request, we will review it and may contact you to help you achieve your goals for the placement. An appropriate **application packet** will be mailed to you within 4-6 weeks. Review the material with the application. Complete and return the application to the Canine Companions training center indicated.
- ✓ **STEP 3:** Once the application materials are received and reviewed, if appropriate, Canine Companions will contact the applicant to schedule a **telephone interview**.
- ✓ **STEP 4:** After completing the telephone interview, if appropriate, **medical and/or professional reference forms** will be sent to the applicant. These forms are to be filled out by a physician and a therapist or other professional and returned to Canine Companions.
- **STEP 5:** After review of the medical and/or professional forms, if appropriate, Canine Companions will contact the applicant for a **personal interview**. The personal interview is conducted at a Canine Companions campus in the applicant's region.
- **STEP 6:** Following the personal interview, the **selection review** committee will review all of the applicant's application materials and determine if the applicant can be accepted into our assistance dog program. If an applicant is accepted, they will be added to the **waiting list** as of their personal interview date.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this endeavor to you. Should you have additional questions feel free to reach me by email.

Jeff Jorgenson

Elementary School Resource Officer

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Costs to the City

ITEM	City Costs
Facility Dog valued at \$60,000	\$0



**CANINE COMPANIONS
FOR INDEPENDENCE®**

**CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE® (CCI)
TEAM TRAINING COST ESTIMATE SHEET**

This sheet is designed as a work sheet to estimate the cost of attending a Team Training class. Because each person has different needs, CCI is unable to provide pricing for the following expenses for each individual.

- 1) Hotel cost for 14 days. \$ _____ x 14 days = \$ _____
- 2) Food cost for 14 days.
 - Breakfast \$ _____ x 14 days = \$ _____
 - Lunch \$ _____ x 7 days = \$ _____
(CCI volunteers provide lunch for 7 of the 14 days)
 - Dinner \$ _____ x 14 days = \$ _____
- 3) Airfare to and from Columbus, Ohio. \$ _____
- 4) Car rental and gasoline cost for 14 days.
\$ _____ x 14 days = \$ _____
- 5) Driving to Ohio may include extra hotel and gasoline costs.
- 6) Miscellaneous expenses: Canine Companions for Independence merchandise, gifts for family members or friends, etc.



ESTIMATED COST TO RECEIVE AND
MAINTAIN A DOG FROM
CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE®
(CCI)

During the Team Training class, CCI provides the graduates with supplies for the graduate dogs. These supplies are: a 20# bag of Eukanuba dog food, 2 dog bowls, brush, ear cleaner, nail clippers, toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo, leash, collar, ID vest.

To estimate the cost of spending two weeks in Delaware, Ohio for the Team Training class, see the Team Training cost sheet.

At the time a dog graduates from CCI, it has been spayed or neutered and it is up to date on all of its shots. The cost to maintain the dog varies, but some estimated costs are:

- * 500 crate - \$80.00-\$90.00 (one time expense)
- * 40# Eukanuba dog food - \$35.00-\$40.00 (every 4-5 weeks)
- * miscellaneous grooming supplies/toys - \$70.00-\$100.00/yr
- * veterinary expenses - These are price quotes without any discount (most vets give a discount for assistance dogs)

General office charge varies but can be \$35.00-\$50.00/each visit

DHLPP-Cv - \$62.25 each year (includes office visit)

Bordetella - \$60.00 each year (if not given with other vaccines)

Rabies - \$65.00 every 1-3 years (if not given with other vaccines)

Heartworm test - \$ 25.00 each year (plus office visit charge)

Heartworm preventative - \$15.00 /month (180.00/year)

Flea preventative cost - approximately \$180.00-\$240.00 each year.

*Other vet expenses to maintain the health of the dog-\$50.00/month

Ear infections-\$35.00 plus office visit charge

Microchip-\$70.00