

Site Requested Training and Technical (TTA) Meeting Summaries

As a part of the Body-Worn Camera (BWC) Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Program, funded sites can request an on-site TTA meeting. During these meetings, sites receive assistance and presentations from CNA's cadre of subject experts on topics relevant to their departments. These topics range from community and media engagement, data management, and public release issues to prosecutor engagement, training, and officer buy-in. The subject experts in attendance facilitate the presentations and encourage discussion among the audience.

In 2018, the BWC TTA Program held a total of four site requested TTA meetings around the country. During these meetings, the TTA team identified common themes across the numerous police agencies in attendance. Those common themes included managing community expectations when implementing a BWC program, working with the local prosecutor's office, and addressing BWC policy issues, such as activation and deactivation. Based on discussions at the site requested meetings, the BWC TTA team is considering developing an In View Commentary piece on the use of "should" versus "shall" in a BWC policy. The following sections outline the key takeaways that resulted from the discussions at each of the site requested TTA meetings during 2018.

Golden, Colorado

On July 20, 2018, the BWC TTA team held a site requested TTA meeting in Golden, Colorado. This meeting was intended for law enforcement personnel from two local Policy and Implementation Program (PIP) sites (Golden and Wheat Ridge Police Departments), the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, and one local non-PIP agency in the region (Jefferson County Sheriff's Department). Approximately 35-40 individuals attended the meeting, plus eight representatives from the Arizona State University (ASU), CNA, and Justice & Security Strategies Inc. (JSS) teams. Topics included an introduction to BWC issues, community and media engagement, data management challenges, public release issues, and BWC policy issues. Based on the TTA request, the site was especially interested in prosecutor engagement, as well as implications of BWC deployment for the prosecutor's office.

Key Takeaways:

- Staffing can be a major concern for agencies that are planning to implement BWCs. Some agencies, along with their respective DA's offices, are concerned about whether new staff would need to be hired to handle the review of BWC footage for their cases.
- When implementing a BWC program, prosecutors should consider how best to handle discovery issues, redaction, and media requests, and whether the release of BWC footage publicly compromises a criminal case.

- When drafting a BWC policy, a police department should address issues such as discretion in activation, the ability to mute a BWC during an encounter, and circumstances surrounding supervisor review of BWC footage (especially for assessments of activation compliance). Attendees believe disparity in these policies across law enforcement agencies could pose a unique problem because public defenders in most jurisdictions have limited time and resources to review BWC footage.

Sunrise, Florida

On August 21, 2018, the BWC TTA team held a site requested TTA meeting in Sunrise/Broward County, Florida. The meeting included law enforcement and IT personnel from four local PIP sites (Sunrise Police Department, Miami Police Department, Fort Lauderdale Police Department, and Riviera Beach Police Department), as well as the Broward County State Attorney's Office and six local non-PIP agencies (Hallandale Beach Police Department, Wilton Manors Police Department, Miramar Police Department, Pembroke Pines Police Department, Margate Police Department, and Davie Police Department). Approximately 35–40 individuals attended the meeting, plus 10 representatives from the JSS and CNA teams who were in charge of leading the meeting. Topics included BWC implementation and common BWC pitfalls, the evidentiary value of BWCs and prosecutor relations, managing community expectations, officer engagement, and managing officers' expectations.

Key Takeaways:

- When working with local prosecutors on the BWC implementation process, agencies should have a constantly evolving policy and facilitate communication and coordination between prosecutors and all local law enforcement agencies.
- Agencies should consider the fact that officers and citizens may view the same BWC footage in vastly different ways. Providing support and assurance to officers as they deploy BWC footage is a necessity.
- When discussing the release of BWC footage to the public, agencies should spend a significant amount of time on their BWC policy and have a trainer accessible to answer officers' questions at all times.

Regional Justice Information Service (REJIS); St. Louis, Missouri; and Peoria, Illinois

On September 10, 2018, the BWC TTA team held a site requested TTA meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. This TTA visit was intended for law enforcement personnel from two local PIP sites—Peoria, Illinois (four agencies on one grant), the Regional Justice Information Service (REJIS) (eight departments on one grant), plus other non-PIP departments in the St. Louis region that use the REJIS system and are looking into BWC deployment. Twenty-eight agency attendees and six representatives from the CNA team facilitated the meeting. Topics included project management strategies for the multi-jurisdictional approach, legal issues and considerations, BWC recording in

medical settings, video release, monitoring policy compliance, maximizing BWC video utility for evidentiary and prosecution value, and managing community expectations.

Key Takeaways:

- Law enforcement agencies should be prepared for some reluctance amongst their officers when first implementing BWCs. Agencies should consider constructing different engagement strategies to help the officers transition and become comfortable with BWCs.
- Community engagement in the BWC policy development and deployment phase can benefit any agency implementing a BWC program, so agencies should prioritize community engagement during the implementation process.
- In addition to engaging the community, the agency should collaborate and engage with prosecutors as early as possible during their BWC implementation. This collaboration should continue throughout all stages of BWC deployment.
- Consistency in personnel, policy review, messaging, training, and audits should be a priority in the BWC implementation process.

Fairfield, California

On December 14, 2018, the BWC TTA team held a site requested TTA meeting in Fairfield, California. This TTA visit was intended for law enforcement officers, administrators, and executives, as well as agency civilian support personnel and local prosecutors. Representatives from two 2017 PIP sites (Clovis, California, Police Department; and Visalia, California, Police Department) in addition to the host agency were in attendance. Representatives from another eight regional non-PIP agencies also attended the meeting. In total, there were 42 attendees, and eight representatives from the CNA team facilitated the meeting. During the meeting, Fairfield expressed concerns about not repeating mistakes made when it initially fielded BWCs. Areas of concern for the department were policy best practices, utilizing BWC for public relations (given the new laws in California), and working with their local prosecutors.

The California Legislature passed two major bills in 2018 about the dissemination of BWC video. Governor Jerry Brown signed them into law on September 30. The first bill, SB1421, directed that BWC video is no longer confidential after certain critical incidents or instances of officer misconduct. This bill took effect on January 1, 2019. The second bill, AB748, strengthens and clarifies the California Public Records Act regarding the dissemination of BWC video. This bill goes into effect on July 1, 2019. Until 2018, BWC video was not a public record. This major change in the handling of BWC video was of great concern to Fairfield Police Department Chief of Police Randy Fenn and his BWC staff.

Key Takeaways:

- Law enforcement agencies are encouraged to include external stakeholders in policy development.



- Supervisory and departmental review of BWC footage should be used to facilitate training and promote best practices. Supervisors should not review BWC footage in an explicitly negative context. These reviews should be constructive and beneficial for both the department and the individual officer.
- When setting community expectations regarding the benefits and limitations of BWCs and BWC footage, agencies should identify an internal subject expert within the police agency. The agency should designate this person to provide information to the media and testify in court when needed (e.g., if a BWC malfunctions).

The BWC TTA Team views these meetings as an important outgrowth and extension of the annual BJA National BWC TTA National Meeting, and as a way to be responsive to individual agency or regional technical assistance needs and questions. The feedback received after each meeting is uniformly positive, and to the extent that individual agencies or regional groups request this form of technical assistance, the BWC TTA Team will strive to provide it.

For more information about our site requested TTA meetings, please contact us at bwctta@cna.org. To request a site requested TTA meeting, please complete the form at <http://bwctta.com/request-tta>