

A story about the impact of Motivational Interviewing

Probation Officer Haley Stager is a certified Motivational Interviewing (MI) trainer employed in the Tioga County Adult Probation Department.

In July 2020, the Pennsylvania State Police informed the Tioga County District Attorney about a barricaded gunman in his home. This individual was currently on supervision with Tioga County Probation Officer Haley Stager, and that she was attempting to assist with the situation. After many hours, PO Stager was able to convince the gunman to put his weapons down, walk out of the house with his hands in the air, and surrender himself to PSP.

Probation Officer Stager went above and beyond her normal duties. It's likely she saved the life of this young man. Additionally, she likely saved numerous PSP troopers from harm from what could have been a deadly situation. This gunman knew the police were there and threatened to shoot anyone that came onto his property, but Officer Stager was able to keep him calm, keep him on the phone, and eventually assist him in making the right decision.

The Tioga County District Attorney was very happy to say she is a part of their team and wants everyone to be aware of her professionalism.

At a recent Tioga County Commissioners meeting, PO Stager was presented with an achievement award for her actions that very likely saved the life of a probationer as well as law enforcement officers. Officer Stager explained that her MI training greatly enhanced her ability to convince her client to peacefully walk out of the situation and surrender to police.

Motivational Interviewing in Pennsylvania

Implementing Motivational Interviewing Training in all of Pennsylvania's county adult probation departments has been a huge undertaking by the PA Chiefs Association. It is reaffirming to hear the impact of the work being accomplished in the field. We thank all the county adult probation and parole officers for their hard work in learning MI skills. We now know it's saving lives.