



"E" DIVISION CRIMINAL OPERATIONS
Core Policing

December 8, 2017

Ms. Lisa Lapointe, Chief Coroner
Chief Coroner's Office
Metrotower II, Suite 800 – 4720 Kingsway
Burnaby, BC V5H 4N2

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MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CORONER

RE: Ebony Aaron Wood
Coroner's Inquest into the Death of
BCCS Case File # 2016:0750:0040

Dear Ms. Lapointe,

As you know, a Coroner's Inquest was held from November 14th - 16th, 2017 in Quesnel, B.C. to examine the death of Mr. Ebony Wood. The Coroner's jury made two recommendations to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), to which we provide the following response:

Recommendation 1

Enhance mental health and substance use training provided to first responders that improves their ability to assess behavioural indicators of risk.

Response:

All RCMP officers within British Columbia are required to complete the National *Excited Delirium* online course and the "E" Division *Crisis Intervention and De-escalation* Course.

- The ***Excited Delirium (ED) Course*** provides practical information for recognizing, responding to and managing this medically high-risk condition, with a focus on recognizing symptoms, understanding that ED is a medical emergency and engaging Emergency Health Services.
- The ***Crisis Intervention and De-escalation (CID) Course*** was designed specifically for frontline police officers in British Columbia and is consistent with the BC Provincial Policing Standards. Its purpose is to ensure that police officers will be able to effectively intervene in and de-escalate crisis situations. There are both online and classroom components, providing training in a four-phase communication model, common mental health and substance use disorders, risk assessment, policy and procedure and the BC Mental Health Act.

"E" Division Training Services delivers the *CID* Course and provides identification of current trends to all police personnel exposed to this training.

Recommendation 2

Ensure any behavioural issues that could endanger the patient or others are communicated to the BCAS when care is transferred.

Response:

Prior to this incident, "E" Division Operational Policy regarding BCAS read, in part, that once an officer had control of an incident/scene, they should allow BCAS to take responsibility for casualty assessment and care. In doing so, they were directed to "*Provide the BCAS crew with your assessment*" [EOM 45.201.2.2.1].

Although behavioural issues impacting safety would certainly form part of an officer's assessment, on April 18th, 2017, pursuant to our own internal review of this incident, we amended the policy to make it more specific. It now reads,

"Provide the BCAS crew with your assessment including any safety concerns" [EOM 45.201.2.2.1]

Thank you for bringing these recommendations to our attention. We remain committed to improving our investigative services and learning from tragic incidents such as these. The findings of the court, inquiries and inquests contribute significantly to that improvement.

Regards,



A/Commr. Eric Stubbs
Criminal Operations Officer (CORE Policing)
"E" Division

cc: C/Supt. Lesley Bain, North District Commander
S/Sgt. Andrew Burton, NCO i/c Quesnel RCMP
Supt. Michel Legault, OIC Pacific Region Training Centre
Sgt. Sapinder Mund, Acting NCO i/c "E" Division Operational Policy Unit