



**ROYAL ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES POLICE FORCE**

**Public Relations and Complaints Department**

**P.O. Box 835**

**Kingstown**

**Tel: (1-784) 485-6891 or (1-784) 485-6697 Fax: (1-784) 456-2816**

**E-mail: [policerelations@gmail.com](mailto:policerelations@gmail.com)**

**Your Reference:**

**March 27, 2024**

**PRESS RELEASE**

*POLICE RECRUITS CONTINUE TO BENEFIT FROM DE-ESCALATION TRAINING IN  
MENTAL HEALTH*

**March 27, 2024: Kingstown** - The Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF) in Partnership with the Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) continues to host De-Escalation training with the Police Recruits. This training helps to teach Police Officers skills that can be used when interacting with mentally ill persons. The training teaches officers: The escalation and de-escalation cycle, causes of escalation, imminent danger signs to identify an escalating situation, the 3 A's of de-escalation (awareness, assessment, and action), and how to positively de-escalate a situation involving mental health patients. Additionally, the training covers general mental health information to acquaint officers with signs and symptoms that may show declining mental health. Community Mental Health and MHRC Admission Policy were also covered in the session.

The training was inclusive of live scenarios which are displayed in the photographs attached. The training also encourages police officers to take proactive steps toward taking care of their mental health while working in a high-stress environment.

The training was conducted on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 by: Dr. Michael Stowe (Medical Officer), Mr. Keron Knights (Staff Nurse – Community Mental Health), Ms. Ellica Matthews and Mrs Anya Abbott (Counsellors), and Mrs. Shunnell Nedd-Noel (Psychiatric Social Worker). The most recent training was done on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

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