

When Solutions Mirror Hypotheses

**Racing Pell Mell to Place Blame and Impose Solutions Developed
in the Continuum**



By:

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Introduction:

Each of us has personal thoughts and feelings. Reality must be contained within the truth and facts, not conjecture, and rant.

The music is the same, the pontificators are recognized, while the "*Breaking News!*" is not! News has become hollow statements, insinuations, and comments designed to cast negativity but never with an explanation. Those who deliver crass and inaccurate information, and know the truth, are shameful and do a considerable disservice to those who watch and listen. We can conclude that the faces presenting the false or skewed narrative statements are merely hateful and seek to cause harm.

Many of us, at least older than the last few generations, were corrected by parents if we engaged in spiteful behavior. There is no merit in behaving that way; it only makes you look bad.

The very people who spend time trashing others fail to recognize their flaws and imperialistic narcissism, where the correction of their behavior finds no time. All talk

turns to political, economic, religious, social, racism, and other talking points, but never to solutions. The speaker seeks to diminish another and bolster him or herself.

Tightly bound with egotism, conceit, selfishness, self-admiration, and a willingness to say things that are known untrue or falsified is demeaning. Remove the fabrications, leaving an empty shell, of little value, when people trample others for a covert, self-serving, and self-righteous purpose. Ultimately they label themselves as pandering, leaving them ineffective and pathetic.

Words that are used to demean another, the error lies with the sender. Evoking untruths, or hyperbole, is a proposed explanation, a supposition, based on limited evidence initiated to create an investigation. Thus, hypotheses offer not proof, rather conjecture, suggestion, and assumptions often conveyed as clandestine skullduggery meant to be harmful.

Overview of Social Alternatives to Existing Systems.

The ridiculous often becomes the slogan of the uninformed. We witness this phenomenon unfolding at this time in human history and should be fuming at the ignorance of it all, the "do-something" crowd making noise and shooting in the dark, hoping the arrow strikes something. Not a bet I would take!

An explanation is in order, for when a negative comment emerges, it can lie among the residue or trigger depth of serious inquiry. Frankly, America, in the chaos associated with a national election, has become polarized. That certainly is not "Headline News!" Society takes sides based on slogans, non-specific comments, or proposed solutions without the depth of inquiry and evaluation. When pondered for a moment, we would say, "*that is ridiculous!*" Thus, an attempt to explain. Will we generate argument, controversy, pushback; we hope so! For until we engage using information, facts, database creation, and analysis, we cannot forgo, or we risk stumbling off the path into the weeds, yet another bumble. Unless we are utilizing verifiable facts, presenting a statement as accurate as possible, and missing insinuation and conjecture, we might as well remain quiet.

In 2000 we produced the manuscript, [Social Work and Police Partnership: A Summons To The Village Strategies and Effective Practices](#), and others published the results of this model (over 3164 downloads of this course alone), highlighting police and social worker partnership in Charlotte, North Carolina. A reference provided, should you seek that information:

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/crj_facpub/1/.

This article proposed a model that worked and accomplished its purpose of benefit to the police, social workers, and individuals in need in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Of more recent venue is the demand for replacing police with social workers. That is a stupid and ill-conceived idea, for it is a proposal without the analysis, failure to include facts and research findings, role definition, or placing focus where needed. In other words, we "leap" for a solution without having considered the need, cause, answers, and outcomes – all too typical of decision-making, and in this example. This political schism is frankly ill-conceived.

Yes, we make assumptions. But when shouted in the halls of political rhetoric, seldom is there accompanying rationale, reason, or analysis – which, with the empirical need for sufficiency to implement, fails. The result, some agree, others disagree, and many do not care. One way to determine the feasibility of passing a law is to evaluate

outcomes. **Did the law accomplish its intended effect?**

When factoring in recidivism, we say no! If the goal is 60 percent compliance, then perhaps satisfaction is achieved. Did behavior change and improvement result? Was progress achieved? Were the calls for service compared with the specific types of needs diminish? Was the imposition of treatment success in achieving its goals and outcomes? Did we make sustainable change in the behaviors of society? Frankly, I am skeptical we deliver the intended purposes; or rather fulfill an individual or group whim to bring about change. Or, to do something without concern for what may occur or not!

We believe careful collection and examination of data, its analysis, and a partnership approach to problem-solving is critical and should never be glossed over in a rush to impose a quick fix. The exception is a single disaster is present. The influences of this statement include:

§ The history of an issue contains many clues to positive change.

§ Political movements too often lose sight of the total population, are myopic, and one-sided.

§ When we consent to mob rule, we ignore 98 percent or more of the general public.

§ Sincere long-term goals are not generally sufficient if proposed by one person who convinces others without their depth of investigation to make decisions.

§ There is no better outcome than when we engage in collaboration and partnership to explore the topic of decision-making.

§ The goal of problem-solving must be sustainable solutions. A quick fix assumes a lack of effort to find answers.

Description of Reality.

1. When we provide or impose any service on people (unless it is free cash) and absolutely no intervention, the vast majority reject it. **Why?** They did not ask for police or social work intervention, and when imposed, it is problematic by the individual who resents it.

2. The file of Social Worker is "helper" a level of professional expertise to make things better, to see the big picture, and then determine what might help and lead to a (a) changed person, or (b) begin a process of self-examine that leads to positive improvement. Imposition with many is just that, and they do not change. The behavior continues as it was. Do we assume too much expecting our expertise (across all levels) to fix people? IN reality, how many are?

3. Police duty has been bastardized, and they are not social workers, helpers, some empathetic soft and gentle person who wants to help. They might well want to, but look at the situations they engage in, not something most of wanted? Drunks, drugs, anger, mental health, ignorant and simmering in a belief that is off the wall, dangerous, and the list goes on and on. Safety, security, not being injured, attacked, accused are part of every decision made. Police encounter emotions, or lack of them, with every call for service or encounter. They are not there to appease, smooth out, counsel, determine and impose long-term fixes; their job is to enforce the law, keep the peace, and investigate crime and apprehend. That is the reason behind the police, to enforce laws that civilian legislative bodies put in place, restore calm, and engage with emergencies. Is that not enough.

4. Yes, police try to be all things to all people. Rationale minds fail to consider what is taking place. An examination of calls for service may well become a semi-combat role, or exposed to danger in others, exasperated at the same behavior by the same people over and over, being accused when they are before someone, and not of their doing what the non-experienced or training officer knows. Because the individual was out of control and someone calls 911, suddenly transposes the issue to the officer, it remains with the chaos that started the process! The underlying purpose remains, it never changed; the police exist to enforce the law, keep the peace, and respond to emergencies until the proper help arrives.

5. The idealistic people of this world seek to impose all manner of righteous expectation [because there is no one else to call] when police are needed, but not available. However, notice that most of them are NOT the ones to encounter the situation. No, they sit back and pass a law or make a judgment, not ever personally engaged. The inflated "expertise" is couched in ego, not reality. All the proposed "fix" to encountered chaos, deviance, and dysfunction, is some deviant "position power" and generally has no grounding. If a person has not vested the time, training, education, and experience, they should engage in partnerships to see sustainable solutions emerge. Most people have not a clue and need to realize the fix may also represent radical change.

If you have not involved yourself, studied, and experienced what you seek to impose, refraining from that impulse is a good idea. And change without the depth of thought, based on data, careful analysis, and examination demands a depth of expertise and awareness to determine solutions. Passing a law works if people comply. On review of the data, is this law making the right changes. Not if we look at the continued behaviors of the problem people.

6. Skirting the truth that the foundation of responsibility rests squarely on the individual whose behavior and actions result in the police being called to assist is ignorance. Passing it off or ignoring it is folly. And we notice that no one mentions the victims, which is in keeping with our career-wide acknowledgment that society and the criminal justice system does a poor job for the victims, often the invisible people, who suffer the most.

Solutions to Problems Must Emerge from Data and Analysis.

The "rushed" or "one-sided" decision is generally impractical, for being reactionary or couched in an agenda, it misses too much to be sustainable. What does that mean? Failure to ascertain the issue's history interjects missing information that may be critical to determining sustainable solutions. A long-term problem does not exist in a vacuum. It contains multiple variables, when ignored, impact on the outcome. Anticipation, guess, trial and error, or supposition have no place in decision-making. When we deviate from a knowledge-based process, we risk missing or injecting an aspect into the process that causes deviation that alters the intended outcome. Therefore, practice dictates that we invest the time to collect full information about a problem under consideration; it is effort well spent.

Conversation provides what people know or believe and will center on the impact of the problem on their life. It becomes personal with a liberal helping of belief, right or wrong, which by itself is limited in contribution. Current conditions often reflect resemblance to the past, and it becomes critical to understand how "then and now" interact or present barriers.

Data collection may be a challenge, but with some effort, we can determine the location and selection of information of value. In today's world, a database can be constructed and used for analysis to answer questions and seek a deeper understanding of how the past to present unfolded. When participant groups meet, there are always questions and comments that can be provided with timely results of inquiry to the database or compare and contrast, seek projections, and enhance the knowledge base of those who are engaged in solution-seeking.

Problem-Solving is Community-wide.

In the August 2020 issue of *The Appeal*, an article by Mia Sato, a social worker in New York City, [Social Workers Reject Calls for Them to Replace police](#), presented an argument against this action.

Examination and discussion of the demand to defund or abolish the police, replacing them with social workers, mental health, and substance abuse certified individuals, is primarily being driven by the Black Lives Matter and Antifa Groups.

Replacement of one skill set, training, education, and experience by another is emotional, but not sensible. It emerges from a hidden agenda, therefore not understood, but undoubtedly one-sided to a particular group. What are the goals, and if they exist, why are they hidden?

Reasons for rejecting this simplistic and unhelpful demand are many, but until emotions and the oft unspoken plans are known, we stand toe to toe in opposition. Balance to what the public expects, needs, and the reality of police encounters are communicated, we remain within this hazy rationale, and no solutions can emerge.

We present our thoughts and arguments based on 107 years of combined sworn officer and academic engagement in all its diversity.

1. When we provide or impose service on people, it usually makes little difference. We have not changed mindset, habit, way of life, or other thoughts as to how one chooses to live their life. **Why?** In the majority of police or social work calls, the recipient generally did not ask for intervention. When the law allows the service to impose it, resentment is often problematic from the individual who resents it. Most police calls are dispatched from a 911 Center, who receives the request and sends the officer. Officers do not initiate them, and their arrival is often into the ongoing conflict. Once on the scene, they encounter the continuum of behavior that ranges from cooperation to resistance.

2. Social workers provide a helper and solutions approach, bringing a level of professional expertise to address behavior, which has a corresponding legal obligation or imposes restrictions on people for violating it. They generally have time, information, and conduct further investigation into an issue to enable a decision. Usually, they are not facing a dangerous person or situation, which will change the role immediately to one of safety and preservation.

When information is known, the Social Worker is aware of the bigger picture enabling them to determine what might help and lead to a (a) changed person, or (b) begin a process of self-examine that leads to change.

Imposition by many people is just that, and they generally do not change in the future. The current incident is resolved, and the resumption of life returns to some form

of balance. The behavior continues as it was. We assume that change will occur when public services are imposed. It may not! The variables not mentioned are the conditions existing when the responding service arrives. Some level of dysfunction may have persisted for years, and unless known, there is little chance of voluntary change. The elephant in the room is the frequency of danger encountered

Police duty is clear: (The list does not portray a priority order).

A. A duty to enforce the law. Civilian legislators enact laws—the code of the land that obligates police enforcement, which is sworn to by officers, based on a civilian oath in all cities and towns.

B. Public Safety. To engage in the safety of the public, to seek assistance in carrying out this duty, and to minimize injury in situations that fit this description.

C. Respond to dangerous and hazardous situations. Examples include traffic collisions, terrorism, threat calls, mental illness, addiction, robbery, and other similar service requests.

D. Inadequate information. Police frequently respond without full knowledge of the history, and until arrival, only cursory awareness of what they will encounter.

E. Arrival at the location of the call initiates information collection by the officer. The officer seeks information on the call, who is involved, are additional units needed, and collection of evidence.

The New Madness.

Violence toward the officer. And the response of violent behavior toward the officer, who is not yet aware - having just arrived, but who encounters immediate threat and aggression. The operative word is "unknown," the extent of danger that can occur on arrival, or through a set-up by someone anticipating harm to responding officers. Ambushing officers is now becoming an all too commonplace threat faced by the police. And we would note that hidden move speaks to the cowardice of the people who find it necessary to conduct this deviant behavior. Acting under the cover of masks to hide one's face, part of an unruly mob, in darkness, directed violence, property damage and destruction, and the assault of people by large numbers of individuals against the single person – is disgusting.

F. Police responsibility is used to address severe problems where others do not act. Police often become the appointed authority for issues with no simple solution. Charged with their management, which is not explicitly covered by the law, court decision, or other imposed restrictions, is folly. And in far too many instances, the governing authority does not provide additional funding to meet the new demands. We refer to domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health issues, and others where a high level of skill and experience is needed.

G. Training generally does not keep pace with changes in the law, procedure charged by Courts, improved technology, systems, and training. Funding is generally not sufficient, yet the police are blamed.

H. Failure to resolve a problem by an existing agency, not trained or certified for the new role, is ludicrous.

H.1. One example was the passage of a law prohibiting the arrest or incarceration of a person found drunk in public. The dilemma then was what to do with the person found in danger of wandering into traffic, freezing to death in winter, or other threats encountered. A law without a solution imposed by a civilian body created a dilemma they failed to address.

I. Attempting to manage mental health or substance abuse situations. That expertise requires certification, extensive training, and knowledge. The police officer is not certified in either or does their job, so require it. They can assist in managing the scene, protecting others, and seek to control aberrant behavior. This situation illustrates the need for additional expertise.

1) The history of the United States War on Drugs saw the United States government begin to crack down on illegal drug use in 1971, a law established by President Nixon. Officially, the war on drugs came about due to a rise in recreational drug use during the 1960s. Now 2020, and it is out-of-control and a major destructive force in this and all countries.

2) The War on Drugs has expended billions of dollars, and the problem remains severe. For nearly 50 years, primary emphasis rested on law enforcement to resolve the issue. It has grown worse due to the lack of a sustainable solutions plan. Without a level playing field to include education, treatment, and prevention, a sustainable solution never materialized. This failure to plan is a national issue, which law enforcement cannot resolve without the presence of additional expertise.

The complexity of Issues Continues Under the Auspices of Complaints.

We assume a plan exists when accusations without requisite contributory comments are made. Seldom is a social issue the responsibility of a single person or group. It is irresponsible to blame the police, resort to violence, and with authority acquiescence, allow it to happen. Anyone with an inquiring mind must acknowledge that destructive, harmful, and agenda-driven action is wrong. Excluding the innocent, other victims who share society, own business, and public and private property should never experience this deadly assault. Elected officials have an obligation to all residents, not the select few who agree with them.

Police are not social workers; however, they will help. Drunkenness, substance abuse, mental health, a violent nature, and people are simmering in a belief that it is okay to harm police and engage in deviant behavior frequently.

Safety, security, not being injured or attacked exist with every police call for assistance. Police encounter elevated emotions, or lack of them, with every request for service or contact.

Police are not there to appease, smooth out, counsel, or determine temporary solutions; their job is to enforce the law, keep the peace, investigate crime, and respond to emergencies as part of a broader response. Behaviors encountered are not police responsibility; they were in existence before their arrival. Seldom are the stated complaints made to police authority before the disruption, for that is also critical to a disruption plan. In other words, the duty of all officials, both public and private, is to work collaboratively and determine solutions. Not for themselves, but their community, every person living or working there!

That is the purpose of the police. Enforcement of the very laws that civilians devise and pass, and they take an oath of office to enforce them. So, to call it something else, to determine alternative excuses for defunding is undoubtedly not feasible nor sensible.

Each of you will make that determination and decision; we only explain what the research and literature tell us.

An examination of calls for service discloses the multiple situations where citizens need assistance. Demands include semi-combat, exposure to danger, exasperated by repeat behaviors by the same people, being accused of wrongdoing, most not confirmed, and not adhering to the law, even when someone "wants" them to do so.

Because and the individual was out of control and someone called 911, they also turn loose their responsibility by transferring it to the police. The chaos remains until resolved by police, and often the complaints are hostile toward the officer. The foundational blame remains with the individual or group that started the episode resulting in calling the law. How is that over-enforcement?

Summary.

The ideology of some seek to impose righteous expectations on all others. The inflated "expertise" in reality is centered on ego, not fairness, and appropriate outcomes. All of the verbalized "fixes" to encountered chaos, deviance, and dysfunction, is some personal ideology of "position power" and generally has no grounding.

If one has not vested the time, training, education, and experience, they should engage in partnerships with diverse others to determine sustainable solutions.

Most people have not a clue and need to realize the fix is also radical change. If you have not participated, studied, and experienced what you seek to impose, refrain from that impulse until you self-educate.

Change without a depth of thought, based on data, careful analysis, and examination, demands a depth of expertise and awareness as solutions are sought. Passing a law works if people comply.

On review of the data, we ask, is this law making the right changes. Not if we determine the behaviors continue.

Skirting the truth that the foundation of responsibility rests squarely on the individual whose behavior and actions result in someone called to assist is ignorance. Passing it off or ignoring it is folly.

And, we point out that we no longer hear mention of victims. Why is that have they become unimportant? They are the reason for laws in the first instance, and to ignore their plight, is irresponsible.

The political decision is generally less successful as a multitude of citizens are not considered, or inquiry made to determine their input. Reactionary or seeking some ulterior motive is not governing; it becomes selfish and ill-conceived.

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