



A Guide to Peer Exchanges

Peer exchanges are learning opportunities that enable participants to visit locations that engage in promising practices in a particular area. These opportunities are available within and outside of the National Public Safety Partnership (PSP). For example, officers from the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department visited the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) in February 2017 to discuss and observe the LVMPD's body-worn camera (BWC) program and policies. The LVMPD's Project Management and Video Bureau has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice for its BWC program management, processing and handling of videos, and policy implementation. The goal of these exchanges is to increase capacity and knowledge for participating agencies by sharing best practices, real-world examples, and lessons learned. Most visits last a day or two, and agendas are tailored based upon the sites' needs. These learning opportunities are a unique and critical component of the PSP's public safety and violence reduction efforts.

Making the Most of a Peer Exchange

Experience has shown that a peer exchange is most effective when an agency works with its Strategic Site Liaison to develop clear and concise goals, objectives, and expected outcomes for the engagement. PSP team members work closely with the agencies throughout the entire process by coordinating with the hosting and requesting agencies to establish an agenda that meets these expectations, providing on-site support when warranted, and conducting follow-up activities. Peer exchanges are not limited only to law enforcement personnel. Sites are encouraged to send representatives who will benefit most from the exchanges and can drive outcomes and organizational changes upon return. These representatives might be prosecutors, analysts, victim advocates, and other partners who may benefit from an exchange. Following the peer exchange, the requesting PSP site completes an assessment to determine whether the visit met expectations and/or requires additional follow-up, as well as to understand and document the potential outcomes. PSP team members and site participants engage in additional discussions periodically after the exchange to review the requesting agency's progress toward its expected outcomes and determine how PSP can assist it moving forward.

Research and Plan

Sites might have a desired peer exchange location in mind, or a PSP team member may suggest the best options based on the requesting site's goals.



Participate and Engage

Peer exchanges are flexible—they might include a facility tour, presentation, meeting with leadership, conference, or combination of activities.



Assess and Implement

Can organizational, policy, or procedural improvements be implemented based on what was learned? Could anything have been addressed that was not?



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Below is a guide using the topic of BWCs as an example of a peer exchange, including agenda topics, objectives, potential outcomes, and additional resources.

Agenda: BWCs

- Tour data storage facility/room.
- Examine concept, development, and implementation of BWC program.
- Meet with area command to discuss patrol perspective, assignments, and daily execution.
- Share policy requirements, how policy violations are addressed, and union challenges.
- Discuss budget considerations and financial impact.
- Discuss benefits of partnerships with university/stakeholders, strategies for addressing community concerns, and processes for records requests from citizens.
- Address what a BWC training curriculum for officers should include.
- Discuss challenges and lessons learned.
- Conduct question-and-answer session.

Objectives

- Identify and evaluate promising practices and policy development for BWC implementation.
- Allow visiting agency participants to interact with and examine program elements, equipment, and facility needs.
- Understand the extent of staff training requirements and policy/planning needs for potential deployment.
- Understand the benefits and drawbacks to different video storage and camera types.
- Learn strategies for community buy-in and financial impact.

Potential Outcomes

- Modified practices or implementation of new practices based on lessons learned
- Increased community engagement and engagement of local partners
- Improved understanding of site and equipment needs
- Increased awareness of staffing and training requirements
- Improved transparency between police and community
- More positive interactions and trust between police and community

For More Information

- **About PSP:** <https://www.nationalpublicsafetypartnership.org/Home#about>
- **Improving Homicide Investigations: Peer Exchange Sample Agenda:** <https://www.nationalpublicsafetypartnership.org/clearinghouse/Resource/418>
- **Peer Exchange Guide: Family Justice Centers:** <https://www.nationalpublicsafetypartnership.org/clearinghouse/Resource/630>
- **Peer Exchange Guide: Body-Worn Cameras:** <https://www.nationalpublicsafetypartnership.org/clearinghouse/Resource/631>
- **Peer Exchange Guide: Enhancing CompStat Strategy:** <https://www.nationalpublicsafetypartnership.org/clearinghouse/Resource/632>
- **Contact:** info@pspartnership.org

