

STAFF REPORT



SUBJECT: Mental Health Policy Chapter 4.13

DEPARTMENT: Police

STAFF CONTACT: Dan M. Harris, Jr.

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider approval of the new City of Stephenville Mental Health Leave Policy, Chapter 4.13.

BACKGROUND:

Effective September 1, 2021, law enforcement agencies are required to develop and adopt a policy allowing the use of mental health leave by the peace officers employed by the agency who experience a traumatic event in the scope of that employment. This Mental Health Policy is required under SB 1359, codified at Chapter 614, Subchapter A-1, Government Code. The Mental Health Leave Policy must provide clear and objective guidelines establishing the circumstances under which a peace officer is granted mental health leave and may use mental health leave and entitle a peace officer to mental health leave without a deduction in salary or other compensation. In addition the policy must enumerate the number of mental health leave days available to a peace officer; and detail the level of anonymity for a peace officer who takes mental health leave. Lastly, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, each law enforcement agency shall develop the mental health leave policy required by Section 614.015, Government Code, as added by this Act. Furthermore, the city has chosen to include emergency medical technicians, firefighters, public safety employees, and telecommunications officers.