

ERNIE & JOE: CRISIS COPS

A documentary by Jenifer McShane



Ernie Stevens (left) and Joe Smarro (right)

VIRTUAL SCREENING OF 25-MINUTE EXCERPT and Q&A PANEL

April 14, 2021– 6:00-7:30 p.m.

This interactive community event in Orange County will feature a guided panel discussion with a local law enforcement officer, mobile crisis clinician, and person with mental health lived experience. This event encourages open dialogue about crisis intervention and community resources - including the current crisis response model in Orange County. Bring your questions and concerns!

ERNIE & JOE: Crisis Cops documentary is an intimate portrait of two officers from the San Antonio Police Department's 20-person Mental Health Unit who are helping change the way police respond to mental health calls. The film takes audiences on a personal journey, weaving together their experiences during their daily encounters with people in crisis. Guns tucked away, Ernie and Joe de-escalate confrontations, divert people to desperately needed mental health services, and save lives.

Director's Statement: While making my last film, MOTHERS OF BEDFORD, it became evident to me that there were many people with untreated mental illness sitting behind bars. Upon learning of the innovative work of the SAPD mental health unit and meeting Ernie and Joe in person I felt compelled to make this film. Their jail diversion work is humane and desperately needed to improve not only the health of the mentally ill, but also of their families. - **Jenifer McShane**

Co-Sponsors: Orange County Sheriff's Office; Clara Martin Center; Kimball Library; St. John's Church, Randolph; Randolph Selectboard; Vermont Care Partners; Team Two; and NAMI Vermont

Hosting Organizations: NAMI Vermont and Team Two Vermont

Access to the full-length documentary will be available after the event.

Multiple screenings will be offered on different dates and include different panelists from several regions of the state – Bennington County, Chittenden County, and Newport.

REGISTER NOW: <https://namivt.org/ernie-joe/>

For more information contact:

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Website: www.ernieandjoethefilm.com ~ **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ernieandjoethefilm/>