



California Affiliated Risk Management Authorities Partners with National *ABLE Project*

The California Affiliated Risk Management Authorities ([CARMA](#)), has proactively partnered with Georgetown University Law Center to bring the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement ([ABLE](#)) Project® to the 110 California law enforcement agencies connected to the CARMA program. The ABLE Project is a national training and support initiative for law enforcement agencies committed to building a culture of peer intervention that prevents misconduct, reduces mistakes, and promotes health and wellness.

By demonstrating a firm commitment to transformational reform in a manner that benefits communities and law enforcement, CARMA has committed to training its member agencies that are eligible to participate in the ABLE program. Agencies taking advantage of the program will join a select group of more than 300 law enforcement organizations across North America that have committed to the ABLE standards offered to all sworn and non-sworn personnel.

About ABLE

Backed by prominent civil rights and law enforcement leaders, the evidence-informed, field-tested ABLE Project was developed by Georgetown Law’s Center for Innovations in Community Safety (CICS) in collaboration with global law firm Sheppard Mullin LLP to provide practical active bystandership strategies and tactics for law enforcement.

Professor Christy Lopez, co-director of Georgetown Law’s Center for Innovations in Community Safety, and co-founder of the ABLE Project had this to say: “ABLE seeks to ensure every law enforcement officer in the United States has the opportunity to receive meaningful, effective active bystandership training, and to help agencies transform their approach to policing by building a culture that supports and sustains successful peer intervention to prevent harm.”

ABLE co-founder and Chair of the ABLE Project Board of Advisors, Sheppard Mullin partner Jonathan Aronie added: “Intervening in another’s action is harder than it looks after the fact, but it’s a skill we all can learn. And, frankly, it’s a skill we all need – police and non-police. ABLE teaches that skill.”

The ABLE Project is guided by a Board of Advisors comprised of civil rights, social justice, and law enforcement leaders, including Commissioner Michael Harrison of the Baltimore Police Department; Commissioner Danielle Outlaw of the Philadelphia Police Department; Dr. Ervin Staub, professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the founder of the

Psychology of Peace and Justice Program; Dr. Catherine A. Sanderson, Professor and Chair of Psychology, Amherst College; and an impressive collection of other police leaders, rank and file officers, and social justice leaders.

ABLE gives officers the tools they need to overcome the innate and powerful inhibitors all individuals face when called upon to intervene in actions taken by their peers. CARMA partner agencies seeking to take advantage of ABLE's free active bystandership training, will have to apply for admission into the program, which includes providing written letters of support from the city or county head, the police chief or sheriff, and, importantly, two respected community groups.

Earlier this year CARMA conducted informational webinars to share this initiative with member agencies. Since then, ten agencies applied and were accepted to participate in the ABLE Train-the-Trainer course. On July 12, 2023, CARMA completed its first sponsored course. The training is POST certified and is provided at no cost to CARMA agencies. Upon completion of training, students are certified ABLE instructors equipped to train others within participating agencies.

About CARMA

CARMA is a California public agency dedicated to innovative approaches in providing coverage to cities, towns, and special districts for catastrophic losses. For over 20 years, CARMA has given its members a stable, cost-effective alternative to the commercial insurance marketplace. Throughout both strong and distressed economic conditions, and throughout both hard and soft insurance markets, CARMA has prospered by strategically combining optimal levels of pooled, self-funded risk with outside insurance and reinsurance and by striving always to maintain on responsive member service, loss control and aggressive management of claims.

CARMA is hosting another Train-the-Trainer course January 23-25, 2024, in Burlingame, CA. For more information regarding the CARMA/ABLE initiative, contact Senior Police Liability ABLE Project Manager, Rob Patton: 916.612.1589 rob.patton1@sedgwick.com.