

The Power of Soft Skills in Building Resilient First Responders



### Erin Smith



Senior Consultant M.A. I-O Psychology

Bryq

### Agenda

Soft Skills in Public Safety

Open Symptoms of the Gap

U3 Leveraging Soft Skills in the Public Sector

1t's the Measurement that Matters

**0**5 Q&A

#### Ol Soft Skills in Public Safety

Contrary to hard skills that measure technical abilities (typing, coding, reading a map, climbing a ladder), soft skills measure who we are, rather than what we've done or what tasks we are

capable of completing.

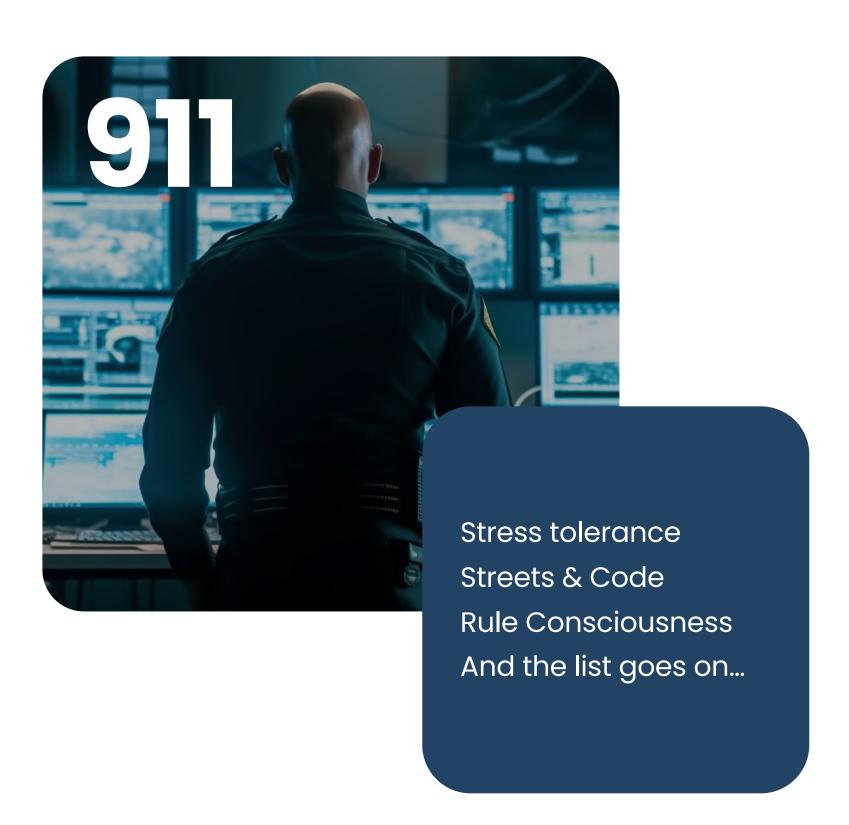
In job analysis, soft skills are always present in the **KSAOs**.





#### Ol Soft Skills in Public Safety





#### O2 Symptoms of the Gap

Catastrophic policing incidents occur not because we didn't evaluate the officers' cognitive ability or reading comprehension, but because the officers lacked the integrity & self control in difficult situations

Fire departments spend millions hiring people willing to put out fires, but don't evaluate their desire to serve as a paramedic

911 centers hire for listening and typing skills, but can't assess resilience to distressing calls.

The Public Sector aims to prioritize Diversity, yet it leans on hard skills that may disadvantage certain populations, and requires resumes to meet very specific criteria



# Leveraging Soft Skills in the Public Sector

1 TALENT ACQUISITION

- Police Oral Boards
- 911 Caller Selection
- Fire Fighter Academy

02 CULTURE MATCHING

**Agency Values Match** 

03 TALENT INSIGHTS

- Predicting Resilience,
   Integrity, Stress Tolerance,
   Safety Behavior
- High Performing / Long
   Tenure Characteristics

104 TALENT MATCHING

- Reduction in Force (RIF)
   transfers
- Diversity Center of excellence
- Fire Department Stations
- Police Position Mobility

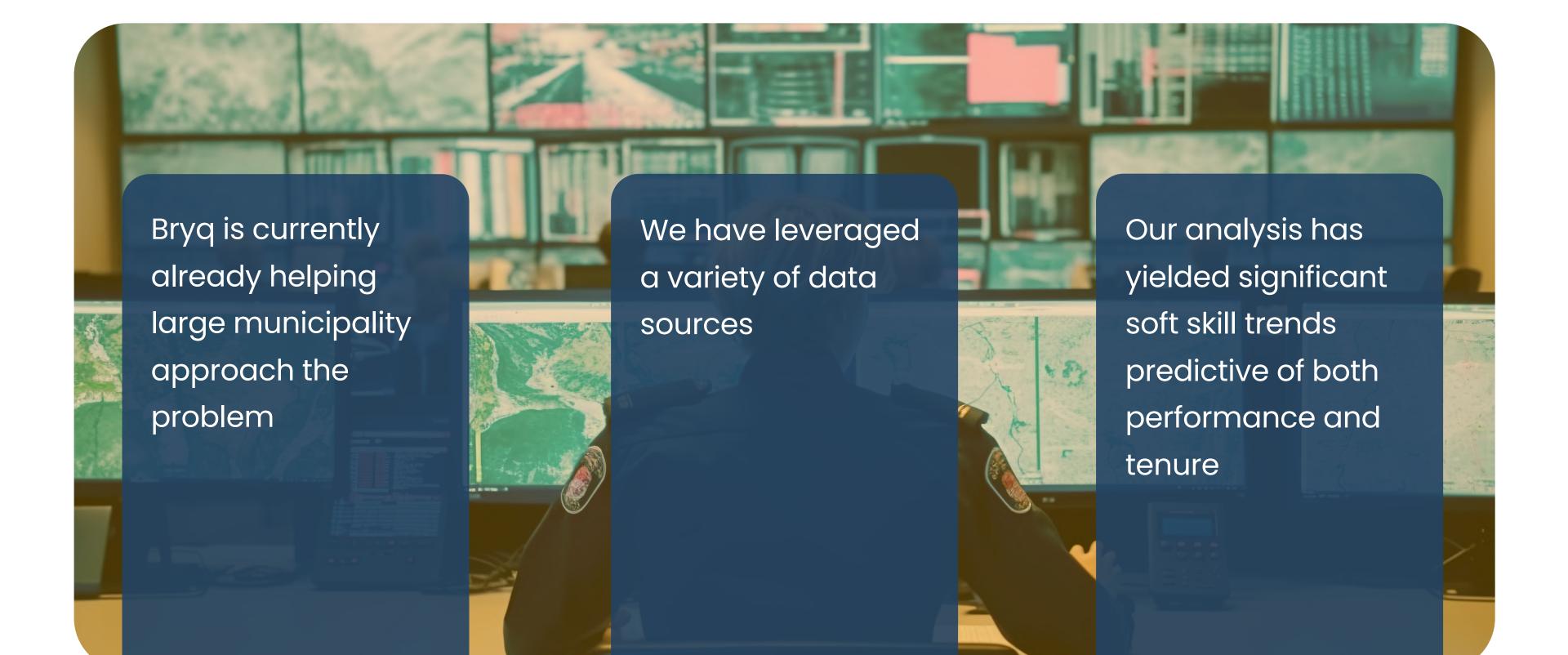
105 TALENT DEVELOPMENT

- Safety Trainings
- Academy Training
- Leadership Development





## It's the Measurement that Matters



Raise
your hand
and let's discuss!





- erin.smith@bryq.com
- in Erin Smith

www.bryq.com

