Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT): Core Elements

Ongoing Partnerships
Crisis Intervention Teams are not just training programs. They are local initiatives that rely on partnerships between, at a minimum: law enforcement, mental health providers and advocates (families and people living with mental illness). These local stakeholders hold ongoing meetings that address evolving issues within the community and deepen trust, accountability and understanding. They are building ongoing ownership by planning, implementing, and networking within their community.

"NAMI has excellent advocacy capacity. They can provide emotional and political support. Without NAMI, any crisis training program is missing out on a strong advocate. I am proud to be associated with NAMI."
--Sgt. John Rohde, Kenosha PD

40 Hour Training for Law Enforcement Officers
Although not the only element of CIT, the 40 hour training is an integral part of successful CIT programs. Law enforcement officers need this fundamental education on mental illness, the perspective of people with lived experience of mental illness, and crisis de-escalation skills. The training is an important opportunity for interactive learning with feedback from trainers and peers.

"I was able to deescalate a potentially physical situation into a verbal relationship with mutual trust to ensure the safety of a person in need of help. I know, undoubtedly, that the outcome of the situation would not have been the same had I not been CIT trained."
--Officer, UW Parkside PD

CIT provides a forum for effective problem solving regarding the interaction between the criminal justice and mental healthcare system and creates the context for sustainable change.

Research & Evaluation
Evaluation and research are essential in order to measure the impact, continuous outcomes and efficiency of CIT programs. Important measures include: decreased law enforcement injury rates, decreased citizen injury rates, reduced recidivism rates and higher likelihood of diversion to treatment, rather than arrest or incarceration.

Extended & Advanced Training
Many officers request refresher training on key issues covered in the 40 hour training or advanced training on specific topics or populations (e.g. youth, trauma, homeless individuals).

For Questions, Please Contact: Stacey Mohr, CIT/CIP Program Director
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Visit www.citwisconsin.org for more information on Crisis Intervention programs.