Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training in Wisconsin

What is CIT?
Crisis Intervention Team training is a community initiative designed to improve the outcomes of police interactions with people living with mental illnesses. CIT programs are local partnerships between law enforcement, mental health providers, local NAMI chapters and other community stakeholders. CIT programs provide 40 hours of training for law enforcement on how to better respond to people experiencing a mental health crisis. CIT is not just a training. Effective CIT programs are based on strong relationships between law enforcement, mental health care providers, families and people living with mental illness. CIT is a long-lasting, evolving partnership based on mutual goals.

What are the benefits of CIT?

- **Extensive mental health and crisis de-escalation training** that includes presentations & discussion with family members and people living with mental illness, interactive crisis de-escalation role-plays, auditory hallucination simulations, (hearing distressing voices), ride-alongs with community social workers and more
- **Increased safety & greater likelihood of connecting with appropriate services** when people experiencing mental health crises interact with law enforcement
- **Stronger relationships & increased understanding** between law enforcement, mental health service providers, advocates, families and individuals

What is the status of CIT in WI?
NAMI Fox Valley and the Appleton Police Department brought CIT to Wisconsin in 2004. Since then, hundreds of officers have attended trainings and many communities/counties have formed their own local CIT&CIP programs.

NAMI Wisconsin has been awarded a CIT/CIP expansion grant and hired a full time CIT/CIP Program Director who is expanding the philosophy of these trainings statewide. Many communities are currently working to build programs and launch themselves as a Wisconsin CIT&CIP training location.

"CIT training has helped us to better serve our citizens. Its emphasis on de-escalation, building rapport and listening has helped us to work toward decriminalization and improved quality of life. CIT trained our officers to dig into underlying problems and challenges, so that they can connect people with a support network, service providers and better long-term solutions."

--Jeremy Muraski, District Captain,