

A Graduating Officer's Enthusiasm for CIT Training

Kay Werk, M.S.W., one of the course coordinators, similarly reports the following conversation with another graduating officer:

Officer F. saw me in the hall and we talked for a considerable period of time. She told me of many situations she is handling differently as a result of the training. Her quote is "I've never had any training in the (15??) years that I've been an officer that I could use immediately. It's the most rewarding experience I've had." She then related several stories of situations where the training has made a difference for her and for the mentally ill clients. She indicates that she's using it almost every single day. "Once the mentally ill people know I'm trained to help them and wanting to do that, they tell me about their diagnoses, meds, where they're being seen etc." She also indicates that when the Netcare Access Emergency Mental Health Assessment Facility staff see her, "they almost knock themselves over trying to get the door open and work with me. This is totally different than it was before. A huge difference."

Clearly CIT is an immediate and worthwhile success. The next group began training on December 15, 2003 at TVBH in Columbus..