

DUTIFUL MINDS

Ohio's CIT Newsletter



Upcoming CIT Courses:

April: Lorain, Lake, Summit, Wood, Hamilton, Union, and Delaware Counties.

May: Ross, Henry/Fulton/Defiance/Williams, Champaign/Logan, Wayne/Holmes, and Hamilton Counties.

June: Franklin & Cuyahoga Counties

6,000 Ohio Peace Officers Have Gone Through a CIT Course

CIT (Crisis Intervention TEAM) courses in Ohio started in May of 2000. It took 8 years to get 3,000 volunteer law enforcement officers through the course. We celebrated this accomplishment at the Ohio Supreme Court at our regular ACMIC (Advisory Committee on Mentally Ill In The Courts) meeting. **We have now doubled that number in half the time!** This represents **26%** percent of Ohio's full-time law enforcement community. Just look to the left of this page and you can see how many Ohio counties are offering the CIT course over the next three months.

The University of Memphis in partnership with NAMI National, the International Association of Police (IACP) and CIT International has been tasked through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance to develop the core elements of a curriculum to guide law enforcement agencies. The curriculum is to cover both the process of community engagement and an intensive training program for a specialized law enforcement response to those in a behavioral crisis related to mental illness. This project is currently winding down. The preliminary results are showing to no ones surprise that CIT accomplishes these goals.

And, CIT in Ohio is the stand out in the U.S. Why? Because we believe that forming a partnership that will last with our individual communities sustains the program and prevents it from becoming "just law enforcement training". The Ohio Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence (CJCCOE) which is funded by The Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) with support from NAMI Ohio has never wavered on this grass roots effort that brings advocates, mental health professionals and law enforcement together in a common goal—that of providing persons with a mental illness the humane and just services they need and deserve and creating a safer way of accomplishing this!



Lt. Michael Woody (ret)

Justice Evelyn Stratton (ret)

Dr. Mark Munetz

The above pictures were taken at the very first CIT National Conference which was held in Columbus, Ohio in 2005. It was a huge success and led the way to a formal CIT National Organization which quickly became an International one. Ohio has a lot to be proud of when it comes to CIT. We have helped change the way the world looks at the intersection of mental illness and law enforcement involvement!



CIT Celebrating its 25th Anniversary in 2013

It's been 25 years since the City of Memphis, Tennessee was able to form true partnerships between law enforcement, mental health professionals and consumer/advocacy groups for people experiencing a mental illness. The outcome of this endeavor was the creation of Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT). Early on it was recognized that special people needed special officers—officers whom had the unique qualities needed to remain calm in sometimes tense situations, yet be prepared for anything (It is the wise officer who can at times conceal their combat-ready status). These officers handled all their regular patrol duties just like any other officer, but when the call was based in mental illness it was funneled to them. Hence why the “T” in CIT stands for TEAM and not Training. This unique approach has now spread across the United States, Canada, Australia, Denmark, Norway, and now reaching into the United Kingdom. It is estimated that over 2500 communities have CIT in place and this “better and smarter way of policing” is now exploding around the world.



Come to Hartford, CT and join the celebration!!!



For just \$25 you get a 1 year membership in CIT International which includes a membership card, seasonal newsletter, discounted registration fee for our annual conference, and access to our “Members Only” section of our website. Being a member also makes you eligible to be considered for a future board position. Go to the CIT International Website at: www.citinternational.org and fill out an application today! The 2013 CIT International Conference will be held in Hartford, CT October 14—16. Go to <http://citconferences.org> to submit a presentation for consideration.

Did you know that if you are a recent (within 90 days) graduate of a 40 hour CIT course or (or one that meets our core elements) you are eligible for a free membership for 1 year. Go to: citinternational.org

Does your Agency Have a CIT Coordinator? Did you know that there is a statewide CIT Coordinators Group that meets twice per year at the Columbus Police Academy to discuss issues surrounding our CIT Programs. There are over 70 members of this consortium. If you are interested in being part of this group contact Betsy Johnson at NAMI Ohio. The next meeting will be **May 29th 10a—2p** Lunch provided. betsy@amiohio.org

Core Outcomes of a CIT Program Lower incidents of injury to officers and citizens

Fewer repeat calls for service of patrol officers with mental health consumers

Enhanced working relationship of patrol officers with county crisis workers

Increased involvement of family and friends of the consumer as a crisis response alternative

Increased knowledge of community resources available to the consumer and family members which may assist in recovery

