



OHIO CIT NEWS

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Summer 2016

CIT Courses Being Conducted this Summer/Fall

- June: Trumbull County CIT for Corrections (1st), Montgomery County (15th), Cuyahoga County (35th).
- July: Franklin County (39th).
- August: Lucas County (22nd), Lake County (11th).
- September: Clark/Green/Madison Counties (10th), Montgomery County (16th), Cuyahoga County (36th), Hancock County (9th), Richland County (19th), Summit County (34th).

**Please advise the Editor or NAMI Ohio of your planned CIT Courses for any days in 2016!*

Congratulations to the first certified CIT in DRC history!



A pinning ceremony took place in Leavittsburg, Ohio, on Friday, June 17, to recognize the inaugural class of CIT-trained professionals employed by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC). Warden Charmaine Bracy and Trumbull Correctional Institution (TCI), a facility that houses and manages mostly Level 3 Close Security offenders, hosted the 40-hour training. Professionals from TCI, Richland Correctional Institution (RCI), and the Ohio State Penitentiary (OSP) were among the graduates.

ODRC has been in the planning stages of bringing CIT to its agency since early 2015 when the agency applied for technical assistance from the National Institute of Corrections. The state of Ohio has approximately 10,000 offenders with diagnosed mental illness residing in state prisons on average. More than forty percent of those offenders are severely affected by their symptoms, bringing challenges to daily life tasks such as waking, showering, eating, working, socializing and learning. Thanks to the commitment of Director Gary Mohr and other ODRC leadership to rehabilitating offenders, the department is seeking innovative ways to manage the population of offenders with mental illness who often times require additional time, patience, and resources. Equipping staff with CIT training is part of the strategy to manage offenders better than ever before.

“I believe the best part of the 40-hour CIT training was the quality of the scenarios,” said CIT graduate Natalie Magee of OSP. “The actors were extremely effective in providing life-like situations with mentally ill inmates. The scenarios allowed for all to participate and to be engaged in the scenario.” The feedback on the scenarios was unanimous. Overwhelmingly, students reported back that it was the best part of the training.

Kim Roschie, a social worker and training manager within ODRC, has helped to coordinate CIT for the department. When asked why bringing CIT became a priority for the agency, she replied, “It is 2016 and we are at a crossroads. We must decide how we will consistently handle offenders who have mental illness who are in our custody or under our supervision. Research shows us that an offender’s symptoms can have a detrimental impact on their thinking, feeling and overall functioning. Experience shows us that how we respond to them can have a positive impact on their recovery. That is why CIT is so promising. CIT has the potential to bring sweeping change to our department and Director Mohr has been 100 percent supportive of this initiative. He has been wanting to bring CIT to the department for years.” Taking the lead on this initiative is Don Morgan, the ODRC Deputy Director of Special Operations. Morgan brings a great deal of credibility as he has held a variety of leadership positions for the department. Morgan chairs the statewide CIT Steering Committee for ODRC and will hand select a local CIT Coordinator for each of the state’s 27 institutions and Adult Parole Authority (APA) regions. He has confidence that over the next several years ODRC will reach its goal of training 30% of staff in CIT.

Tereasa Jamison, Chief of the Bureau of Behavioral Health, has been instrumental in fostering networks with mental health agencies and advocacy groups such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Ohio, CIT International, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence (CJCCOE), and NIC. Jamison addressed a crowd in May 2016 at a CIT event. Her message was clear and concise - ODRC is embracing this initiative because it works. In Ohio, a state that is leading the nation in the number of CIT-trained professionals, we can all bear witness to the successes of CIT. Lisa Marie Griffin, a consumer advocate and national presenter, echoed those sentiments in a speech she gave to the same audience. “CIT changed my life,” said Griffin who was previously incarcerated at the Ohio Reformatory for Women.

The hope of ODRC is that CIT will continue to change lives. It was evident at TCI that this is already happening. Staff are more aware of and more prepared to handle offenders with mental illness. Don Gant, CIT Coordinator for TCI, said, “The emotion that surfaced during the week was one of satisfaction. Finally people are understanding there’s a better way to do business that will make things better for staff and inmates. The benefits of CIT will be department wide but operations staff will reap them the most. They are the ones who have the most contact with our inmate population.”

Trumbull Correctional Certified Members

Alveranga, Richard (not in photo)		Beggs, John
Bell, William	Brown, Jerry	Brown, Pamela
Dezee, Robert	Dray, Mark	Ficeti, Vince
Finch, Lisa	Groves, Nancy	Haynie, Christie
Hoey, Gerald	Hoskin, Charles	Howard, Jesse
Jones, Marlon	Kleinknecht, William	Lucas, James
Marn, Scott	Patchin, Travis	Raber, Cheri
Taggart, Michael	Tucker, Mark	Washington, Craig
Weimer, Robert	Yurich, Francis	Gant, Donald

Richland Correctional Certified Members

Dorsey, De	Dowler, David	Herring, Nicole
Risinger, Tammy	Schaad, Christina	

Ohio State Penitentiary Certified Member

Natalie Magee

The Value of Peer Reviews

Ohio has a CIT Peer Review Team that researches and assesses volunteer counties' CIT training curriculum and their CIT Program. The goal is to help maintain fidelity to the Core Elements of CIT that make it so successful. And the best part is that **NAMI Ohio pays you** to go through the process. Contact the CJCCOE @ dutifulmind@gmail.com for more information or to set up a review of your CIT Program. Many counties have gone through the process. Peers are currently reviewing **Sandusky/Seneca/Wyandot Counties**.

One of the most important core elements of a CIT Program is that of having a CIT Coordinator.

At this year's CIT International Conference in Chicago April 25th – 27th the first ever Certification Course was held for Law Enforcement, Mental Health Provider, and Advocate CIT Coordinators. There were only 80 openings for this much sought after course. Ohio coordinators led all other states, obtaining 10 spots! Those from Ohio who are now recognized by CIT International as Certified CIT Coordinators are:

Carole Ballard – ADAMH Bd. Cuyahoga County
Deanna Brant – Ravenwood Health Center
Holly Cundiff – Lorain County Board of Mental Health
Shelley Horine – Bowling Green State University Police Department
Jeffrey Dennis – Columbus Division of Police
Patricia McCaslin – Lorain County Sheriff Office
Dennis Moell – Child Focus Inc. (Cincinnati)
Gery Thobe – Mercer County Sheriff's Office
Lee Ann Watson – Clermont County Mental Health & Recovery Board
Michael Woody – CJ/CCOE Law Enforcement Liaison



Yes it was a tight fit

Ohio 2016 CIT Advanced Training Conference a Success!

This year's conference was a rousing success as usual and attendees received a winter knit cap with the Ohio CIT logo on it along with lunch provided by NAMI Ohio. Numerous awards were given out and programs included "50 Ways to Improve Your CIT Course" as well as "Implicit Bias".

Conference Co-sponsors

National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio (NAMI Ohio), Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, Ohio Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence, Ohio Office of the Attorney General, Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services.

Ohio CIT 2016 Awardees

CIT Practitioner of the Year



Jim Hagen, Ph.D.

Scioto Paint Valley Mental Health Center
(with Aaron Bryant, Office of the Ohio
Attorney General)

Evelyn Lundberg Stratton CIT Champion of the Year



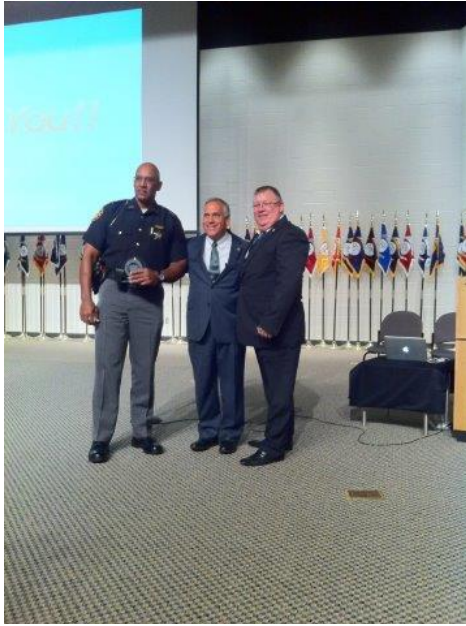
Betsy Johnson

The Treatment Advocacy Center
(with retired Justice Stratton)

Dr. James Hagen is the vital principle of the Crisis Intervention Team training in the Paint Valley ADAMH Board region. He brings a wealth of knowledge as a clinical psychologist. His ability to positively interact and collaborate with law enforcement makes him a true champion of the program. He takes the lead daily on the 40 hr. course, facilitating the modules. He has the special ability to interact with law enforcement, corrections and court systems on a consistent basis, excelling in promoting the need for CIT trained officers, dispatchers, and correction officers.

Betsy Johnson has become the champion advocate for CIT in Ohio. Her work has led to Ohio having CIT programs in almost all 88 of Ohio's counties. Betsy is passionate, persistent and creative. Betsy has taken the lead on the semi- annual CIT Coordinators Meetings and the annual statewide CIT advanced training conference. Betsy has helped numerous counties host CIT planning meetings, provide them with hearing distressing voices kits, CIT pins, pocket guides for CIT. She has successfully gotten funding to support CIT in Ohio from the Office of Criminal Justice Services and the Ohio Office of the Attorney General. These funds support scholarships to police agencies that did not previously send CIT officers to training; support communities that host CIT training or put on advanced CIT training.

CIT Program of the Year



Franklin County Sheriff's Department Corrections Division

(Captain Turner, Gary Mohr Director of ODRC,
and Chief Stobart)

Through the efforts of Capt. Turner in bringing CIT to the Franklin County Jail along with Mental Health First Aid and seeking funding for such needed programs, and Deputy Natalie Randall, and Deputy Andrea Clark in using their CIT /MHFA learned skills to de-escalate, and more importantly seek and offer help to inmates in the jail with mental health problems this county facility has become the “shining star” in helping those incarcerated persons with a mental illness get the help they need and the correction officers the training they need to properly and humanely interact with inmates exhibiting mental health symptoms.

Sgt. Goforth was in the 2015 Licking County CIT Academy. He was very engaged in that training and absorbed the skills he was taught. He has since then demonstrated a passion for serving the mentally ill that he encounters in his work at the Licking County Jail and in his community. He has pursued additional training in this area, including becoming certified himself as a Mental Health First Aid Instructor. He has trained jail staff and other officers in Mental Health First Aid and has served as a role model in the jail and to the law enforcement officers in other departments.

CIT Corrections Officer of the Year



Sgt. Odean Goforth

Licking County Sheriff's Department

CIT Officer of the Year



Off. Burks utilizes CIT to its fullest. He has a way of communicating with individuals in crisis. His smooth and calming disposition brings the situation to a successful resolution due to his personal interaction with the individual(s) on many calls. In fact, he takes pride in being able to resolve situations successfully with individuals in crisis. He consistently establishes a level of trust with individuals that we encounter on a regular basis. Off. Burks has always been a successful communicator, but he has been consistent in resolving situations since he received CIT training in 2012.

Officer Paul Burks

Dublin Police Department

(with Attorney General's Office staff member, Aaron Bryant)

A Notice that the CIT Coordinator of Lucas County sent to Chiefs after officers attended the CIT course.

Chief Newton and Lt. Weaver;

Officers Courtney Stranscak and Patrick Greene attended each day of last week's CIT training. They were engaging and participated in discussions and role-plays. They did a good job representing UT. And as an Alumnus, it is good to know we have Officers like them on campus. Attached is a copy of the sign-in sheet and some class photos. Robert Kasprzak - Lucas County CIT Coordinator

And the reply: **Robert,**

Thank you for the email. Never can I remember receiving feedback on officers during training and it is very much appreciated. We are also grateful for the great CIT training provided in Lucas County and UTPD remains committed to the principles of CIT.

Mahoning County April 2016 CIT Graduating Class



Four County Spring 2016 CIT Graduating Class



From NAMI Ohio
CIT Pins, Quick Reference Guides, and Hearing Voices Kits
Are available upon request.

