



# OHIO CIT NEWS



Fall 2020



## Stopping the Revolving Door

By Betsy Johnson



As a member of the implementation team at the Treatment Advocacy Center, I have the privilege of working with communities that are in the process of establishing assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) programs. Sometimes this involves taking visitors to observe quality AOT programs.

Last year, I was sitting in the back of a courtroom with a group of out-of-town guests when a young man approached the bench. As he stood in front of the judge, with his caseworker beside him, the judge asked, “I understand from your caseworker that you do not plan to go to your appointment on Thursday, is that correct?”

“Yes, that’s right. I’m not mentally ill. I don’t need medication,” he said.

“Well, I’m very sorry to hear that. I know you missed your appointment last month, too. We really do not want you to end up back in the hospital again. You’ve already been there two times this year. Tell you what I am going to do. I’m going to have a Sheriff’s deputy come to your house at 9:00 a.m. and take you to your appointment.”

“Well, what if I don’t open the door?” he asked, shifting from foot to foot, his eyes darting around the room.

“Oh, well, that is between you and the deputy. I’m just telling you that he will be there. I hope you decide to let him take you to your appointment.

A few days later, I called and spoke to the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program monitor. “So, what happened? Did he go?” I asked.

“He sure did,” she said. “He got in the car. Went to the appointment. Came out, got back in the car and the deputy drove him home.”



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Three months later, I was back in the same courtroom with another group of observers. I leaned over and asked the monitor, “So how is that young man doing who was transported to his appointment by the sheriff’s deputy?”

“He’s doing great! He is attending all of his appointments and is taking his medication. In fact, if he continues to do well, the treatment team does not plan to request a continuance after his AOT order expires in a few months.”

So, what exactly is Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)? AOT is a court-ordered, community-based intervention for individuals with serious mental illness (schizophrenia or bipolar disorder) who cannot, on their own, recognize their need for treatment. As a result, they often find themselves caught in the revolving door of hospitalization and incarceration.

A person under an AOT order receives intensive services and supports in the community to help prevent further psychiatric deterioration. The theory behind AOT is simply that a court order will motivate the person to regard treatment adherence as a legal obligation in most cases. It works especially well when it is accompanied by a consistent and caring message from the judge, the treatment team, and, as in the example above, law enforcement.

Because AOT is a civil court procedure, a person who does not comply with the court order does not go to jail but experiences other consequences, such as having the order extended, being summoned back to court, or undergoing a court-ordered evaluation.

For a small number of people living with untreated mental illness who cycle in and out of hospitals and/or jail, this non-punitive tool can mean the difference between life and death. Additionally, it results in considerable cost savings. In fact, there are over two decades of research demonstrating the effectiveness of AOT in reducing hospitalization, incarceration, arrests, homelessness and other bad outcomes. \*

To date, there are 25 counties in Ohio with AOT programs, including seven of the eight largest counties. (Lucas County plans to adopt a program in the coming year.) Additionally, Ohio has an AOT Monitors Group, modeled after the CIT Coordinators Group, which meets regularly to troubleshoot challenges together and share effective strategies. As with the CIT program, they are beginning to collect data that will eventually help demonstrate the effectiveness of the program to funders and other stakeholders.

A learning block on AOT is now available for inclusion in CIT trainings. You can access it on the Criminal Justice CCoE [website](#). The module provides a brief introduction to AOT and talks about the role of law enforcement in helping to ensure the program meets the needs of the community. For instance, it raises issues for discussion regarding the identification and referral of individuals who may be appropriate for AOT, prioritizing AOT orders to convey and talking with families about AOT.

To learn more about AOT, go to [www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/aot](http://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/aot). If you are interested in learning how you can help implement a program in your county, please email Betsy Johnson at [johnsonb@treatmentadvocacycenter.org](mailto:johnsonb@treatmentadvocacycenter.org).

*Betsy Johnson is policy advisor at Treatment Advocacy Center.*

\*<https://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/storage/documents/aot-one-pager.pdf>



Butler County Probate Court Judge Randy Rogers (far left) speaks to guests from Baton Rouge, LA about his county's AOT program.

## Ohio Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)

Updated 5/1/2020



### Key

**Gold – Fully operational AOT program with regular monitoring of active cases.**

**Silver – AOT program is under consideration.**

**Is your county accurately reflected on this map? If not, please contact Betsy Johnson at [johnsonb@treatmentadvocacycenter.org](mailto:johnsonb@treatmentadvocacycenter.org). Thank you!**

[www.neomed.edu/ciccoe/sequential-intercept-mapping/the-ultimate-intercept/#1568832929739-f9de8222-adde](http://www.neomed.edu/ciccoe/sequential-intercept-mapping/the-ultimate-intercept/#1568832929739-f9de8222-adde)

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## **Stark County Completed CIT Training in August 2020**



Stark County is proud to graduate 23 law enforcement and probation professionals in CIT.

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## **Congratulations to the Recipients of the 2020 Stark County CIT Awards**



Stark County honored Judge Taryn Heath as the 2020 CIT Advocate of the Year



Stark County honored Officer Kelly Crowl as the 2020 CIT Officer of the Year

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## **Congratulations to Officer Nathan Chrapowicki, the Wayne and Holmes Counties' 2020 CIT Officer of the Year**



Pictured Left to Right: Orrville Police Chief Matt Birkbeck, Helen Walkerly, Executive Director of NAMI Wayne Holmes, and Officer Nathan Chrapowicki, Orrville Police Department



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## **Congratulations to Officer Dave McIntyre, the Paint Valley 2020 CIT Officer of the Year**



To read more about Officer Dave McIntyre and other award winners, please visit <https://highlandcountypress.com/Content/In-The-News/Social/Article/Paint-Valley-ADAMH-Board-announces-Behavioral-Health-Heroes-/2/74/60096>

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## **Ohio CIT Support and Expansion Project**

As many of you are aware, the CJ CCoE received state funding through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for Ohio CIT Support and Expansion. The project provides support for a variety of activities and training opportunities related to CIT program development, including but not limited to: Law Enforcement agency scholarships, CIT training mini grants, CIT program development subawards to Ohio county and multi-county CIT programs, regional or statewide training opportunities for partner groups, updated statewide strategic planning and more.

CJ CCoE staff members hold planning calls with local CIT Coordinator(s) and/or Steering Committee members to develop program plans and deliverables for each community. As of September 17, 2020, 24 subawards, representing 41 counties, have been executed. These subawards focus on advanced, companion and refresher CIT courses, policy and procedure development and implementation, information gathering and sharing, and much more!

To discuss CIT program development and training opportunities and to apply for a subaward, please contact Haley Farver at [hfarver@neomed.edu](mailto:hfarver@neomed.edu) or 330-325-6815.



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## **Online Advanced CIT Training Opportunities**

The Department of Psychiatry Coordinating Centers of Excellence have offered two webinars to our multi-system partners that have been made available as advanced CIT training opportunities. Both webinars have been recorded and certificates of completion can be requested after watching the full recording.

### **A New Way of Looking at Psychosis: Recovery**

The webinar was designed to aid individuals in recognizing the signs and symptoms of psychosis, identifying indicators of recovery in individuals with psychosis, and responding appropriately to stigma.

To access the webinar recording, please visit  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=JALAKeLWZC4&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JALAKeLWZC4&feature=youtu.be)

### **A Suicide Prevention Strategy: Facilitating Critical Connections During Times of Transitions**

This webinar will help participants appreciate the significantly increased risk for suicide during transitions – whether they are from inpatient or emergency to outpatient psychiatric care, from home to college or university, from jail or prison to community, or following a mental illness diagnosis or initial relapse – and the need for people who are struggling or in crisis to feel supported during these transitions. The webinar will also help participants learn about programs and interventions offered by the Coordinating Centers of Excellence that reduce suicide risk by fostering connections at critical times.

To access the webinar recording, please visit  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tdBEQBiOwA&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tdBEQBiOwA&feature=youtu.be)

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## **First Responder Hearing Distressing Voices Simulation**

Dr. Pat Deegan's Hearing Distressing Voices Simulation is an empathy-building experience that is often utilized in CIT trainings. The CJ CCoE and NAMI Ohio have offered the traditional Hearing Distressing Voices Simulation for borrow to Ohio CIT programs for many years. Recently, the CJ CCoE purchased the new Hearing Distressing Voices Simulation Toolkit for First Responders. The new kit is available to borrow for free from the CJ CCoE.

To borrow a traditional or first responder kit, or to get information on purchasing a kit for your community CIT program, which could be an excellent addition to your Support and Expansion subaward project, please contact Haley Farver at [hfarver@neomed.edu](mailto:hfarver@neomed.edu) or 330-325-6815.

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## CIT Promotion Showcase – Wayne and Holmes Counties

A portion of the Wayne and Holmes Counties' Support and Expansion subaward project focused on purchasing training room supplies to aid in better executing their CIT trainings. When purchasing some of these supplies, Wayne and Holmes Counties' included their local CIT logo. Take a look at the great items below!



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## Ohio CIT Coordinators Semi-Annual Meeting

**When:** Friday, November 13, 2020 at 10:00 AM

**Where:** Zoom Meeting

Registration for the meeting is required, please visit

<https://neomed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqdOivqDgoHdCkfCRJ9aP3i4E5S4osxFZp> to register. Following registration, you will be provided with a link and password to join the meeting via PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or Android.



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## Welcome New CIT Coordinators

- Cathy Krieg
  - William Albrecht
  - Amanda Davis, Angela Stowers, and Amanda Knipp
  - Joe Parkin
  - Ray Nicolai, Brad Hughes, Jessica Parejte, Keith Kcough, Samo Mernk, Matt Pettry, Tyler Hughes, Jacob Getto, Seth Gaede, Taylor Deal, Heath Studer, Ruth Hendershot, and Paul Sehismenos
  - Jessica Clune and Alicia Bruce
  - Beth Adkins
  - Josh Bartholomew, Dan Kalk, and Andrew Lumpkins
  - Ralph Stover
  - A.J. Linscott
- Clermont County  
Cuyahoga County  
Gallia, Jackson, and Meigs Counties  
  
Lake County  
Medina County  
  
Mercer, Paulding, and Van Wert Counties  
Miami, Darke, and Shelby Counties  
Portage County  
  
Summit County  
Washington County

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## From NAMI Ohio

CIT round pins, rectangular lapel bars, patches, Quick Reference Guides, and Hearing Distressing Voices simulation kits are available upon request.



## CIT Mini Grants and Law Enforcement Scholarships

The CJ CCoE and NAMI Ohio collaborate to make mini grants and scholarships available to Ohio CIT training programs. Funding for mini grants and scholarships is made possible through awards from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

### CIT Mini Grants to Support full CIT Courses: \$1,800

Mini grants in the amount of \$1,800 are available to offset the costs of hosting full CIT courses or academies. Communities can request a mini grant for each 40-hour (or equivalent) course held between July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

### CIT Mini Grants for Advanced, Refresher, or Companion Training: \$1,000

Mini grants in the amount of \$1,000 are available for those communities wishing to offer advanced, refresher, or companion trainings. This includes training that does not meet the full 40-hours requirement but seeks to provide advanced topic training to existing CIT officers, refresher training to existing CIT officers, or companion training to key CIT partners, e.g., dispatchers, fire/EMS, behavioral health providers.

## **CIT Scholarships for Law Enforcement Agencies to send Personnel to CIT Training: \$1,800**

Scholarships of \$1,800 are available for Law Enforcement agencies sending police officers for the first time to complete the full 40-hours CIT course. These scholarships prioritize agencies who have not participated in CIT training in the past. A limited number of scholarships are available to agencies that have participated in the past but have financial constraints affecting their ability to send additional officers.

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**All mini grant and scholarship requests should be made by the county CIT Program Coordinator and sent to Luke Russell at NAMI Ohio: [luke@namiohio.org](mailto:luke@namiohio.org)**

For all mini grant requests, please provide the following information. If you previously submitted a request, it is not necessary to submit a new request. If you want to add trainings to your existing request, you can do so through an email to Luke Russell, identifying the type of training to be held and the dates of training.

1. Type of training (full CIT course, advanced, refresher, companion)
2. Date of the training
3. A list of the members of your CIT Steering Committee
4. Name and address of the entity to whom the check should be made payable (in the case of scholarships, this should be specific law enforcement agencies)
5. Name of law enforcement agency and name and rank/position of specific personnel who will attend training (required for scholarships only)
6. Completed roster of all graduates, and for advanced, refresher and companion trainings the type and length of the training upon completion

**All mini grants and scholarships will be paid after completion of the training and once the training roster is verified**

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## **The Value of Peer Reviews**

Many Ohio Counties have gone through the Peer Review process over the years and gained valuable insight and information on improving not only their CIT course but also their CIT program. A three-member team is sent to your community to meet with your Steering Committee to mutually finalize the team's findings after the community provides the team with materials and evaluations from your course and program. Of special interest, your community CIT program will receive **\$1,000** just for going through the process. Make sure you are striving to incorporate the Core Elements of what makes a CIT program so successful as developed by The University of Memphis CIT Center, the Ohio CIT Coordinators group and CIT International.

For more information or to set up a review of your CIT program during fiscal year 2021 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021) please contact Jeff Futo at [Jeff.futo@gmail.com](mailto:Jeff.futo@gmail.com).



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## Fall 2020 Ohio CIT Courses

• Cuyahoga County – Cleveland Division of Police	October 5-9
• Trumbull County	October 7, 8, 9, 15 and 16
• Hamilton County	October 12-16
• Delaware and Morrow Counties	October 19-23
• Lucas County	October 19-23
• Montgomery County	October 19-23
• Six County	October 19-22
• Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot, Erie, Ottawa, and Huron Counties	October 26-30
• Wayne and Holmes Counties	October 26-30
• Butler County	November 2-6
• Fairfield County	November 2-6
• Hancock County	November 2-6
• Lake County	November 2-6
• Athens, Hocking, and Vinton Counties	November 16-20
• Hamilton County	November 16-20
• Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot, Erie, Ottawa, and Huron Counties	November 16-20
• Stark County	November 16-20
• Franklin County	December 7-11
• Tri-County	December 7-10

***Please advise Haley Farver at [hfarver@neomed.edu](mailto:hfarver@neomed.edu) of your planned CIT Courses for 2020 and 2021!***



# Ohio CIT Program Coordinator or Contact Information

*Note: information is subject to change*

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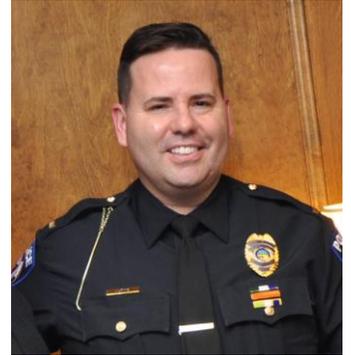
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## In Grateful Memory

The Ohio CIT Community lost Lieutenant Garry Alting of the Ashland Police Department this past July. He was a 25-year veteran of the department and known for his infectious smile, great sense of humor and love of police work.

Probably the most popular APD officer, his story telling ability created thousands of smiles over the years according to the Ashland Police Facebook page. While he is missed, he will not be forgotten. Lt. Alting completed CIT training in Richland County in September 2012 and it was known from day one that he had a servant's heart and loved helping people.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, the Ashland Police Department, and the entire Ashland community during this time of loss.



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## National News and Updates

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### CIT International – Conference Extension Announcement

CIT International has extended the viewing of the CIT 2020: A Virtual Experience Conference until October 31, 2020. This gives all who registered another full month to watch the 65 workshop sessions presented. If you did not register for the conference, there is still time. Simply [click here](#) and once you have paid, you can experience all the exceptional workshops presented virtually this year.

Continuing Education credits are available for licensed clinicians for an additional fee and Certificates of Attendance are available for free for all others.



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