



# OHIO CIT NEWS



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Summer 2018

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## From the Ohio CIT Coordinator



By Mike Woody

The Milwaukee Sentinel Journal recently ran an article titled: *Implementation of mental health training plan for officer's runs counter to recommendations* (to read the article, please visit the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)). I have been preaching since the beginning of CIT in Ohio that the 40-hour CIT course as developed in Memphis, Tennessee in the late 1980's was, and still is, a **specialist** course for law enforcement officers assigned to the **Patrol Division** who have experience in the field and have shown **emotional maturity**, **leadership skills**, and a **desire** to humanely interact with persons in crisis on a more regular basis by **volunteering** and being **recommended** by supervision to attend and to wear the CIT Pin on their uniform and respond to these types of calls. This article demonstrates what can happen when the "T" in CIT is no longer (or never was) recognized as standing for **Team** and instead is considered as standing for Training!

I have observed officers in CIT courses who obviously did not volunteer nor have some of the above listed traits. I too have seen attendees sleep, text or disrupt the class and show disrespect to the volunteer instructors from the community who are giving their time and effort to make the student wiser and safer. You can lead them to the water but you cannot make them drink! Just as it takes a special person to become a SWAT officer, so too does it to become a CIT officer.

I do understand the reasoning of law enforcement leaders, attorneys, mayors, etc. in wanting to give ALL officers the course for safety and liability reasons, but this can be a pound-foolish! In this regard, we have been able to increase the number of hours mandated by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy for cadets from five hours to 20 hours on the subject of dealing with persons in crisis. This is more than most states require currently. It is not the 40-hour CIT course that makes an officer an expert in handling these types of calls. It is that the officer wearing the CIT pin now handles many more of these oftentimes-repeat calls for service along with their regular calls. This makes them true experts in this area in a short time.

In closing also, remember that the "T" also stands for the Team partnership between law enforcement entities, mental health providers, and advocates for those with mental illnesses and those with the illness to troubleshoot any perceived or real problems that may occur within the CIT **Program**. There is strength in numbers! One of the main goals is to divert those with this illness from the justice system when feasible to the mental health system and to keep everyone involved safer.






OHIO CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
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## 2018 CIT Advanced Training Conference

The 2018 CIT Advanced Training Conference was held on May 4, 2018 in conjunction with the 2018 NAMI Ohio Conference, "Fulfilling the Promise". Retired Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton presented the annual statewide CIT awards. To view the awards presentation, please [click here](#).

**Congratulations to the 2018 Ohio CIT Award Winners!**

Officer of the Year	Champion of the Year	Coordinator of the Year
		
<p><b>Lt. Daniel Adkins</b> <i>City of Niles Police Department</i></p>	<p><b>Chief Kurt Althouse</b> <i>Vandalia Division of Police</i></p>	<p><b>Jodi Long</b> <i>Montgomery County ADAMHS Board with Evelyn Stratton</i></p>

Chief of the Year	CIT Deputy of the Year
	
<p><b>Chief Timothy Malley</b> <i>Lakewood Police Department with Evelyn Stratton and Judge Steve Leifman</i></p>	<p><b>Deputy Jeffery McCollister</b> <i>Stark County Sheriff's Department with Evelyn Stratton and Judge Steve Leifman</i></p>

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## Columbiana County Completes First CIT Course in March 2018

In March 2018, Columbiana County completed their first CIT course and graduated twelve law enforcement officers from ten departments. The Columbiana County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and the National Alliance on Mental Illness sponsored the course. To learn more, please visit the [Morning Journal](#).



Congratulations to the CIT Graduates and to Columbiana County on their inaugural training!

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## Summit County Completes CIT Course #37 in April 2018



24 officers representing eleven police departments and a representative of Akron Municipal Court completed CIT Training on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

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## Mahoning County 2018 CIT Officer



The Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board awarded Officer Malik Mostella the 2018 CIT Officer of the Year Award. Malik is an 18-year veteran officer who has worked in schools for 17 years. Retired Lt. Michael S. Woody, Ohio's CIT Coordinator and previous President of CIT International, had the honor of presenting Officer Mostella with his award.

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## Stark County 2018 CIT Officer of the Year and 2018 CIT Champion of the Year



The Stark County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Board awarded Deputy Jeffery McCollister the 2018 CIT Officer of the Year Award and Sheriff George Maier the 2018 CIT Champion of the Year Award.



# Ohio CIT Coordinator Course

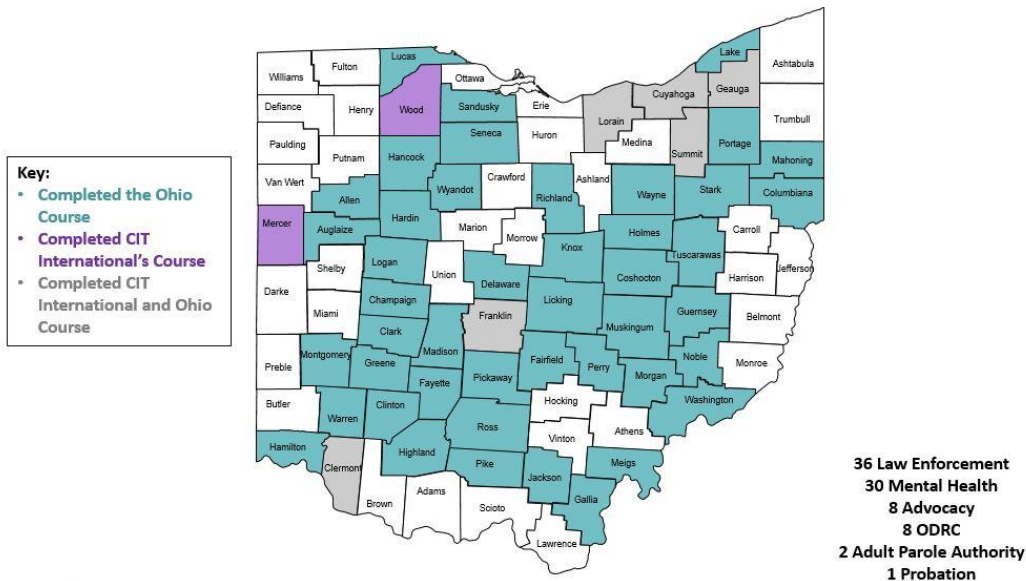
Thanks to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence had the honor of sponsoring the third Ohio CIT Coordinator Course on May 18, 2018 in Columbus, Ohio.

The course hosted 25 participants, representing 13 Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Board areas and the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. The map below illustrates Ohio counties that have had representatives complete a CIT Coordinator Course either in Ohio or through CIT International. The Ohio curriculum was based directly on the ten core elements that make CIT so successful and consisted of presentations and discussions facilitated by representatives of rural and urban CIT programs throughout Ohio. At the end of the day, participants understood why the motto of CIT International is "CIT – More Than Just Training!"



May 18, 2018 Ohio CIT Coordinator Course Participants

## CIT Coordinator Courses



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## From NAMI Ohio

CIT Pins, Quick Reference Guides, and Hearing Voices Kits are available upon request.



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## Mahoning and Wayne/Holmes Counties Complete Peer Review of CIT Programs

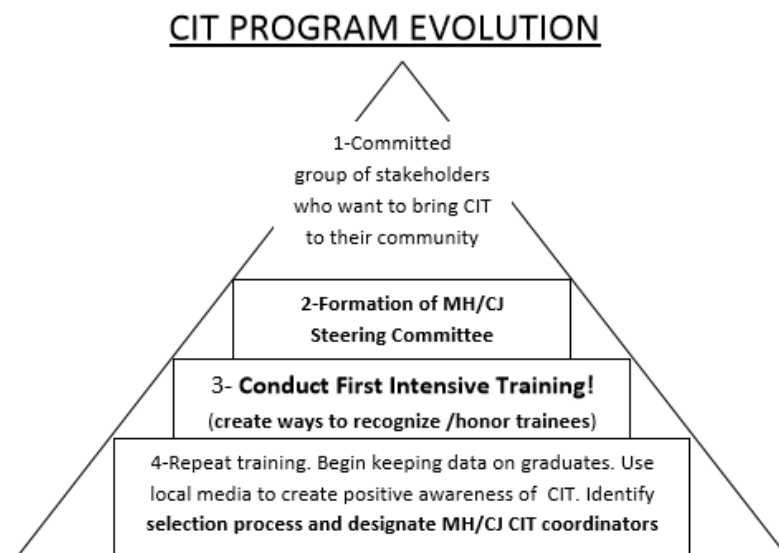
Mahoning County and Wayne/Holmes Counties CIT programs recently participated in the Ohio CIT Peer Review process. One of the many benefits of peer review is that reviewers and participating communities learn from one another through this collegial process, and programs throughout the state can learn from each other's reviews. These two programs were commended for similar strengths in their program/training and given suggestions for enhancement and further development.

Both programs were recognized for the following strengths in their program/training:

- Consistent history of providing CIT courses
- Training content
- Recognition process of the training and program

Mahoning County was further commended for providing stable CIT financial and law enforcement recruitment support, while Wayne and Holmes Counties were praised for their mental health and criminal justice collaboration.

While the success of CIT program development is impacted uniquely by each community's leadership commitment and resources, the CIT Program Pyramid (below) depicts common developmental stages. Early emphasis is on the first four stages by building a foundation to select and train officers. As the illustration below shows, Mahoning County has achieved a significant milestone by reaching the fourth phase in their CIT program development.



The evolution and quality improvement of CIT training is a never-ending process. Reviewers provided the following suggestions regarding the CIT training in both programs:

- Review all training for its relevance to the street encounter
- Review the training content for a balance between primary and secondary training sessions
- Provide more interactive learning opportunities
- Consider “formalizing” the CIT Curriculum
- Expand or review the focus of the legal block
- Conduct specialized training for dispatchers

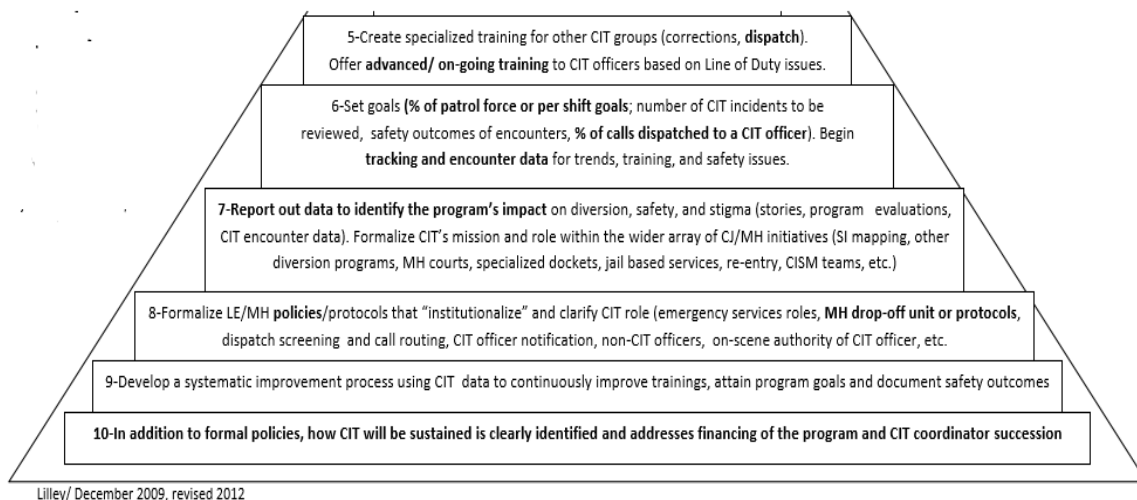
Additional suggestions were offered for Mahoning County:

- Integrate the de-escalation with the role-play segments of the training
- Consider addressing trauma and resiliency of first responders
- Involve CIT graduates
- Consider providing advanced training

The Wayne/Holmes program was encouraged to consider these suggestions:

- Evaluate the impact of training on officer knowledge/attitude
- Enhance preparation of both the officers and the site visit agencies in advance of the visit
- Consider adding a segment on cultural issues as they relate to the police encounter
- Consider sending post-training survey 4-8 weeks after training to CIT graduates to solicit feedback on the course and the use of their new skill set

Both counties have a strong history of providing CIT trainings. However, CIT is more than just training. It is a program that saves lives. Where sound CIT programs exist, we believe that officer and consumer safety is increased and individuals with mental illness are diverted away from jail and gain quicker access to much needed treatment services. The CIT Pyramid contains these additional six phases that form the base of program development. Wayne and Holmes Counties have achieved a significant milestone by reaching the fifth phase in their CIT program development.



Reviewers offered these recommendations regarding CIT program development for both programs:

- Collect encounter data
- Implement policies and procedures that support the CIT program
- Review liability with respect to emergency hospitalization
- Develop a CIT officer recruitment process (volunteers vs. voluntold)

for Mahoning County:

- Develop a Steering Committee
- Formalize CIT coordination across the behavioral health/criminal justice partnership
- Develop a formal way to receive feedback from graduated CIT officers

for Wayne/Holmes counties:

- Review ways to foster and sustain CIT programming throughout both counties
- Involve CIT graduates in the training and program development
- Strengthen how CIT officer are being routed to CIT calls

Remember, these Reviews are **free** and should not only be “a pat on the back” for the good work your community is doing, but also comforting to know that you are on the correct track in following the core elements that make a CIT program so successful. It was a pleasure adding “PR 2018” to the Ohio CIT Map for Mahoning, Wayne, and Holmes Counties. We also give advice on how to tweak your program and are willing to help in that regard if needed. Please visit the [CJ CCoE website](#) to view full Peer Review Reports.

Contact Mike Woody to set up a Peer Review for your community CIT Program at:  
[dutifulmind@gmail.com](mailto:dutifulmind@gmail.com)

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## Upcoming Ohio CIT Courses

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| • Franklin County                      | July 9-13, 2018       |
| • Montgomery County – Sheriff’s Office | July 23-27, 2018      |
| • Franklin County                      | August 6-10, 2018     |
| • Lucas County                         | August 6-10, 2018     |
| • Stark County                         | August 13-17, 2018    |
| • Franklin County                      | September 10-14, 2018 |
| • Richland County                      | September 10-14, 2018 |
| • Hamilton County – Sharonville Police | September 17-21, 2018 |
| • Summit County                        | September 24-28, 2018 |

**Please advise Haley Farver at [hdurig@neomed.edu](mailto:hdurig@neomed.edu) of your planned CIT Courses for 2018!**





# Ohio CIT Program Coordinator Information

*Note: information is subject to change*

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## National News and Updates

CIT International's annual Conference will be held on August 15-17, 2018 in Kansas City, Missouri at the Sheraton Crown Center. To register, please visit <http://www.citinternational.org/events>. Please pass word along to your local CIT officers and Law Enforcement agencies.

