



OHIO CIT NEWS



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From the Ohio CIT Coordinator

Keeping Accurate Track of Your County's CIT Officers

By Mike Woody



There are many benefits of keeping accurate CIT training records. For example, accurate records can come in handy if news media or county leaders call you, the CIT Coordinator, wanting to know the current state of CIT implementation in your jurisdiction or county. This information can also be used to pinpoint which of your Law Enforcement agencies may be lacking appropriate numbers of first responders available to handle these "specialist" calls for service. Accurate records may also help you with garnering funding to increase the number of CIT 40-hour courses you can conduct. The benefits can go on and on...

Let me illustrate how we accomplish this task in Summit County. We currently have 28 Law Enforcement (L.E.) agencies. The biggest is Akron with over 400 officers. The smallest has only one officer. We run two CIT courses per year and have done so since May of 2000. All Summit County L.E. agencies have sent officers. We even have a small waiting list. We keep the class size to 24 if possible, as even numbers make for better pair-ups in the scenario-based exercises. Currently, we do include four Medics in the course.

When we are nearing the date for a CIT course (about three months out), I send out notice of this to the two largest L.E. agencies because I can usually count on them to send four officers each. So, that brings us down to 16 slots left. With the four Medics, we are down to 12 slots available. So, how do I determine who gets these coveted spots from the other 26 L.E. agencies?

Here is the method to my madness: I email **The Ohio Peace Officers Training Council** each year and ask for the most recent list of Sworn Officers per Department, per County. They are quick to send that to me. I scroll to Summit County where all the L.E. agencies are listed. This tells me how many full-time, part-time, auxiliary, etc. officers each department currently has and how many total officers in Summit County. This is valuable information.

Knowing that small L.E. agencies may need to send all their Patrol Officers to a CIT Course to have a "specialist" available, I prioritize the smaller agencies for the remaining spots. I send them an email giving the course dates, a deadline for a response and limit the number they can send to two. Since I have been doing this for a long time I keep track of each of these agencies and every year send them my CIT completion records for their agency, asking the following information: Are they still employed by you? Are they still assigned to Patrol? Are they full-time officers?

Using this information, I now know the percentage of each department's full-time sworn officers assigned to Patrol who are currently performing CIT "specialist" functions. This information allows me to make logical and prudent decisions on which L.E. agencies to prioritize for the upcoming course. (I have learned from experiences that these small departments will sneak in part-timers, which is okay provided the full-timers have gone through first).

Previously I sent out a “blast” to all L.E. agencies in the county and managed CIT training as a first-come first-served event. Yes, this made it easy on me but did not seem fair. I also think that by doing it this way it has a psychological effect, i.e., it makes the course more valued to administrators when they have to jump through some hoops. We do believe in special officers for special people. And we should all want, as CIT Coordinators, the crème of the crop attending this special course. Don’t you think?

For a copy of the OPOTC Ohio Peace Officers Report Contact:

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Office of Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine
Office number: 740-845-2689
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Sheryl.Shaw@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov

Trumbull County Fall 2017 CIT Course



TRUMBULL COUNTY CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM TRAINING FALL 2017



Trumbull County Sheriff's Office: J. Buch, W. Campbell, B. Carducci, R. Nichols,

L. Padula, D. Poledica, R. Ross Ohio State Highway Patrol: M. Abbey

Warren City Police Dept: W. Fowler, Q. Hubbard, R. Massucci, E. Nites, M. Sajnovsky

Howland Township Police Dept: K. Peterson, S. Stephens, J. Wert

Hubbard Township Police Dept: R. Goclano

Niles City Police Dept: K. Brady, R. Ifft



Ohio CIT Coordinators Course

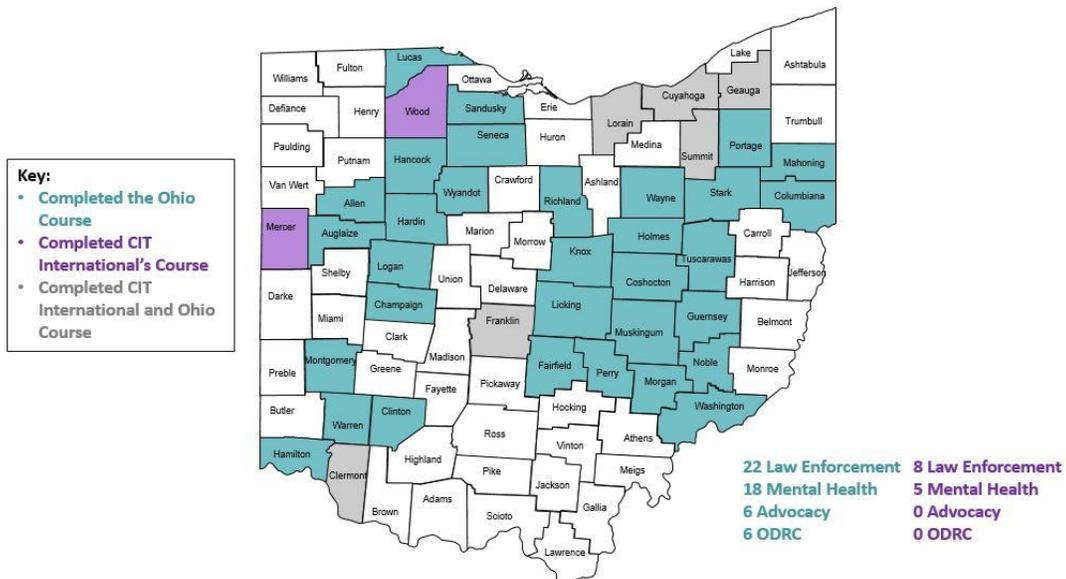
Thanks to the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program grant in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Office of Criminal Justice Services, the CJ CCoE had the honor of sponsoring a second one-day Ohio CIT Coordinator Course on December 11, 2017 in Columbus, Ohio.

The course hosted 22 participants, 20 of whom completed the full course, representing 12 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 10 Core Elements that make CIT so successful and consisted of panel discussions from 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!"



December 11, 2017 Ohio CIT Coordinator Course Participants and Panelists

CIT Coordinator Courses



Ohio CIT Advanced Training Conference

Ohio's annual CIT Advanced Training Conference will be held on Friday, May 4, 2018 in conjunction with NAMI Ohio's Conference. A workshop track dedicated to CIT will be available. Please save the date and pass word along to your local CIT officers and Law Enforcement agencies.

Save the Date - Crisis Response Continuum Conference

When

Wednesday, March 21, 2018
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Where

The Fawcett Center
2400 Olentangy River Road
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Featuring Keynote Speakers

- Mike Hogan, Ph.D.
- Margie Balfour, M.D., Ph.D., Tucson, Arizona
- Jason Winsky, Sergeant, Tucson, Arizona

[Crisis Now – Transforming Services Is Within Our Reach](#)

Sponsors

- Peg's Foundation
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence, NEOMED
- Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Please save the date and share this with programmatic partners, local and state decision makers, and advocates.

Stepping Up Working Definition of Serious Mental Illness

Stepping Up is a national initiative targeted at reducing the number of people with mental illnesses within jails throughout the nation. Having clear and consistent data available in local jails and mental health systems is vital to establishing baseline numbers and measuring progress toward this common objective. The *Stepping Up Initiative – Ohio Project* - has an active Statewide Steering Committee that works to promote opportunities and provide technical assistance that will further the efforts of participating counties.

In response to numerous requests for guidance in clearly defining mental illness, the Statewide Steering Committee recently developed a working definition of serious mental illness to enable consistency across Ohio counties as they work to measure the incidence and prevalence of individuals with mental illness in county jails. The memo below issued by Tracy J. Plouck, Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, announces and provides the working definition of serious mental illness and encourages voluntary

adoption of the definition by county level partners and networks.

Please share this information with your programmatic partners, local and state decision makers, and advocates.

[OMHAS Memo](#)

For additional information about the *Stepping Up Initiative* in Ohio, visit www.mha.ohio.gov/steppingup

From NAMI Ohio

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

CIT Mini Grants for Training Expenses – 2017

All mini grant requests should be made to Dustin McKee at NAMI Ohio: dustin@namiohio.org.

CIT Mini Grants for Training Programs

Mini grants in the amount of \$1000 are now available for local CIT programs to offset the expense of holding a 40-hr. course.



CIT Mini Grants for Law Enforcement Agencies

Mini grants in the amount of \$1000 are available for law enforcement agencies that are sending an officer(s) to CIT training for the first time. A limited number of mini grants will also be provided for law enforcement agencies that have not sent an officer to training for at least two years due to a lack of resources and have indicated that with financial assistance they would send an officer.

CIT Mini Grants for Advanced Training

A limited number of mini grants in the amount of \$500 are available for those communities wishing to offer CIT officers advanced training.



Trumbull County Completes Peer Review of CIT Program

Trumbull County's CIT Program participated in a Peer Review earlier this year and was commended for the following strengths in their program/training:

- Consistent history of providing CIT courses
- Stable CIT financial and recruitment support
- Officer application process
- Training content
- Recognition process of the training and program



Reviewers also offered suggestions on how to improve their curriculum and program. The Trumbull County CIT Steering Committee thanked the reviewers and wasted little time exploring ways to improve in these areas. Representatives shared their positive experience at the semi-annual Ohio CIT Coordinators meeting on November 14.

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 2017” to the Ohio CIT Map for Trumbull County. 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 see previous Peer Review Reports.

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

Upcoming Ohio CIT Courses

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Marion and Crawford Counties | December 11-15, 2017 |
| • Montgomery County | January 29 - February 2, 2018 |
| • Tuscarawas County | February 5-9, 2018 |
| • Richland County | March 12-16, 2018 |

Please advise Haley Farver at hdurig@neomed.edu of your planned CIT Courses for 2018!



Inviting Guest Articles

We are interested in expanding the scope of our newsletter to include an informative article from an Ohio CIT Coordinator in each issue, starting with Spring 2018. If you have a topic that you think is timely and want to recommend, we will be happy to search for an “expert” to write the article, or if you would like to submit an article, please contact Mike Woody @ dutifulmind@gmail.com or Ruth Simera @ rsimera@neomed.edu and we will be happy to assist you or follow up. Guest writers will also be invited to include their CIT logo on the front page of the newsletter along with the state logo.



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. Please save the date and pass word along to your local CIT officers and Law Enforcement agencies.

