



# OHIO CIT NEWS

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Spring 2021

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## CIT Expansion Grant Moves Medina County Forward

By Gail Houk

When Medina County received its first CIT Expansion Grant in 2020, we had no idea how much of an impact it would make in a very short period of time. CIT in Medina is funded by the Medina County ADAMH Board, and overseen by Alternative Paths, Inc., a local behavioral healthcare provider. In 2004, Alternative Paths coordinated the first CIT class in the county, and since that time has trained over 450 officers, dispatchers, and corrections staff. CIT has come to be a highly regarded program working to bridge law enforcement and behavioral health professionals and resources in our community.

When the expansion grant opportunity was first announced, we were asked to look at ways in which we could work to support a culture of CIT in our community. The word “culture” became our focus for the grant. We assessed what culture meant to us. It meant forming an alignment of the goals and objectives for law enforcement and behavioral health, ensuring that our motivations are all pulling in the same direction. We needed to strengthen trust between the two, knowing that one could count on the other. There needed to be an increase in communication and follow up to help all involved know what the outcomes were to the efforts put forth. We wanted to be innovative, looking for ways to simplify processes to provide enhanced outcomes. Developing a strong sense of teamwork had to come into play. Finally, we wanted to establish ways to create recognition, and to show appreciation to those who put in efforts above and beyond.

We are very fortunate that we have built strong, collaborative relationships between law enforcement and behavioral health, and our framework for 24/7 crisis response has been firmly in place for many years. This foundation enabled us to move on to impact culture. We first decided that increasing ongoing communication with law enforcement was important to further expansion. We reached out to each of our police agencies in the county and asked that they name a CIT Liaison who would be a contact for us, attend quarterly CIT meetings, work with us on identifying needs in our community, be a messenger of information back to their fellow officers, and champion our mission of fostering a CIT culture. All of our police agencies responded with a resounding yes to our request. CIT Liaisons now

meet quarterly and respond when contacted by our crisis staff at times when intervention is needed by their agency.

Through meetings with liaisons, we worked on developing a system by which referrals could be made to our crisis team other than the use of our 24/7 crisis line. Law enforcement officers often encounter persons in the community that would benefit from behavioral health services/ intervention, but the situation may not rise to an emergent request. The idea of the CIT Portal located on the Alternative Paths, Inc. website: [www.alternativepaths.org](http://www.alternativepaths.org) came out of the need to have a quick and easy way for law enforcement to get information to the agency which could be followed up on in a short period of time. Now officers can access the portal to input basic referral information that is emailed directly to key staff who initiate follow up, offer services, provide caring contacts, and support connectivity to needed resources. The behavioral health clinician then follows up with the officer to advise of the outcome of the referral made. For referrals that may require deployment of a clinician, arrangements are made for an officer and clinician to respond collaboratively to follow up with a person in the community. The portal has been a very successful initiative allowing officers to help people get needed resources in an efficient manner.

As we have done CIT annual trainings, we have found that after the initial week, we send the officers back to their departments with new knowledge and skills, but we do not have a component to follow up with them. We want to explore how the training has impacted them, how they have used the training in the field, further expand on areas which they may have questions about and get their feedback on additional training needs. As part of our expansion grant we initiated a ride-along and shadowing experience with all CIT class members. This has given us one on one time with each officer. This experience has been excellent in developing relationships, gaining useful feedback, and furthering our goal of deepening the culture of CIT in our community. Officer feedback following the ride alongs has confirmed that this time spent is valuable to them personally and professionally. It is allowing us to grow our focus areas of trust, communication, teamwork, recognition and appreciation.

In the past year, our expansion grant provided funding to fulfill some identified initiatives. Those initiatives in turn, have paid off to really be an investment in our culture of CIT in Medina County. They have taken us outside of our routines, gotten us to enhance our communication, and allowed us to learn about and interact with each other at deeper levels. We are reaching new levels of trust, teamwork, innovation and responsiveness. All of this ultimately is paying off in the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of crisis response that we give to those with behavioral health issues in our community.



**CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
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# Congratulations to Portage County CIT Officers of the Year!

Officers Josh Bartholomew, Streetsboro PD; Officer Matthew Butcher, Kent City PD; Officer Scott Krieger, Ravenna PD.



## Recent Ohio CIT Course Graduates

Montgomery County ADAMHS in partnership with Montgomery County Sheriff's Office held a 40-Hour CIT Academy for Law Enforcement January 25-29, 2021.



**Stark County completed CIT Dispatcher Training on February 10, 2021.**



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

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence (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 March 15, 2021, 27 subawards, representing 52 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.



# Registration Open – Ohio Advanced CIT Training Conference

When: Friday, April 16, 2021

Where: Virtual Platform

To register, email Ashley Eads at [aeads@neomed.edu](mailto:aeads@neomed.edu) with the following information:

- Name
- Specialty/Profession
- Organization/Program
- County
- Telephone
- Email

Please disseminate to your local CIT Coordinators, CIT trained officers, correction professionals, dispatchers, mental health, and advocacy partners.

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## Save the Date

**Semi-Annual CIT Coordinator Meeting**

When: Friday, May 14, 2021

Where: Virtual Platform

Registration information will be forthcoming.

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## Save the Date

**Ohio CIT Coordinator Course**

When: June 9-10, 2021

Where: Virtual Platform

Registration information will be forthcoming.

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## Save the Date

**Public Safety Telecommunicator Training of Trainers**

When: June 15-16, 2021

Where: Virtual Platform

Registration information will be forthcoming.



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# CIT Promotion Showcase

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## Mahoning County

A portion of Mahoning County's Support and Expansion subaward project focused on creating a commercial to educate the community on CIT and how to request a CIT officer. To access the CIT promotional video, please visit <https://youtu.be/aG0kNqiDEyI>

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## Medina County – Montville Police Department

A portion of Medina County's Support and Expansion subaward project focuses on recognition of law enforcement agencies that have shown strong support for the local CIT program. Montville Police Department was recognized in 2020 and received the below award and sweatshirts. Take a look!



# CIT Promotion Showcase

A portion of Stark County's Support and Expansion subaward project focuses on marketing materials for the local CIT program, including billboards, radio ads, and social media ads. Take a look!

To access the Stark County CIT promotional video, please visit <https://vimeo.com/497313999/3004794b1f>



**My name is Isabella.**

A CIT officer saved me and my family. Lately, I've had so many hard days. I was feeling lost, stressed, and just done with everything. One night, I was thinking about suicide.

My mom got scared and called the police. A CIT officer came to our house, talked with me, and explained he was calling a counselor to come help. She got there really fast, and we all had a conversation about what's been going on. We planned next steps that were right for me, and while things can still be tough, I'm learning how to take care of myself and I'm doing better.

CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) Training is a partnership where police and behavioral health experts work together so calls about substance use and mental health result in help for anyone who needs it. In Stark County, StarkMHAR ensures this training is available to first responders in the county.

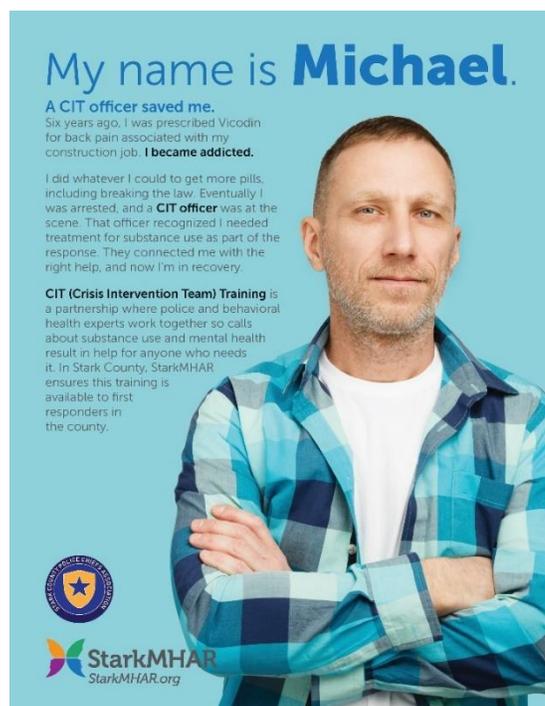


**My name is Jessica.**

A CIT officer saved my neighbor. Mary has lived across the street from me ever since we moved in. When I hadn't seen her for a couple of days, I got worried. Soon, I was really concerned that something was wrong.

I called the police for a well check. Thankfully, they found that she was physically safe. But the CIT officer who responded recognized that she had isolated herself and was showing signs of depression. That officer knew what to do in the moment, and also connected her with ongoing support.

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**My name is Michael.**

A CIT officer saved me. Six years ago, I was prescribed Vicodin for back pain associated with my construction job. I became addicted.

I did whatever I could to get more pills, including breaking the law. Eventually I was arrested, and a CIT officer was at the scene. That officer recognized I needed treatment for substance use as part of the response. They connected me with the right help, and now I'm in recovery.

CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) Training is a partnership where police and behavioral health experts work together so calls about substance use and mental health result in help for anyone who needs it. In Stark County, StarkMHAR ensures this training is available to first responders in the county.



## From NAMI Ohio

### CIT Mini Grants and Law Enforcement Scholarships

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence 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:** 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:** 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:** 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.

**CIT Scholarships for Telecommunications Professionals:** Telecommunications Centers sending dispatch supervisors to the full CIT training can receive scholarships of \$1,300. Dispatchers are encouraged to attend Companion Training when that is available. Scholarships are based on the length of the course: 4 hours: \$125; 8 hours: \$250; 16 hours: \$500; 24 hours: \$750. Centers sending a dispatcher to a full CIT training because a companion training is unavailable can request \$750.

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 ([luke@namiohio.org](mailto:luke@namiohio.org)), identifying the type of training to be held and the dates of training.



**For all mini grant and scholarship requests, please provide the following information:**

- 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 or telecommunications centers)**
- 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.

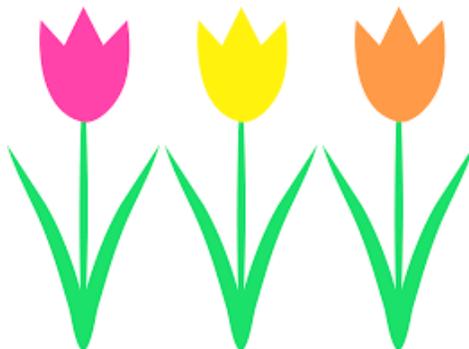
All mini grant and scholarship requests should be made by the county CIT Program Coordinator and sent to Luke Russell at NAMI Ohio: [luke@namiohio.org](mailto:luke@namiohio.org)



## Upcoming CIT Courses

- Medina County March 22-25, 2021
- Muskingum, Coshocton, Noble, Perry, Guernsey & Morgan Counties March 29 – April 1, 2021
- Ross, Pike, Fayette, Highland & Pickaway Counties April 5 – 9, 2021
- Wood County April 5-8, 2021
- Gallia, Jackson, & Meigs Counties April 6, 8, 13, 15 & 20, 2021
- Allen, Auglaize & Hardin Counties April 12 – 16, 2021
- Miami, Darke & Shelby Counties April 12 – 15, 2021
- Richland County April 12 – 16, 2021
- Portage County April 19 – 23, 2021
- Cuyahoga County April 26 – 30, 2021
- Hancock County April 26 – 30, 2021
- Licking County April 26 – 30, 2021
- Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot, Erie, Ottawa & Huron Counties April 29, May 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2021
- Seneca, Sandusky, & Wyandot Counties May 5, 12, 19, 26 and June 2, 2021
- Washington County May 10-14, 2021
- Miami, Darke & Shelby Counties June 21 – 24, 2021

Please advise Ashley Eads @ [aeads@neomed.edu](mailto:aeads@neomed.edu) of your planned CIT Courses for 2021!



# Ohio CIT Program Coordinator or Contact information

Note: Information is subject to change

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|---|---|--|
| <b>Allen/Auglaize/Hardin</b><br>Rick Skilliter<br><a href="mailto:rskilliter@pvff.org">rskilliter@pvff.org</a>  | <b>Geauga</b><br>Brian Ayer<br><a href="mailto:AyerB@Ravenwoodmhc.org">AyerB@Ravenwoodmhc.org</a>   | <b>Ottawa</b><br>Laura Miller<br><a href="mailto:millerla@firelands.com">millerla@firelands.com</a>  |
| <b>Athens/Hocking/Vinton</b><br>David Malawista<br><a href="mailto:dmalawista@ci.athens.oh.us">dmalawista@ci.athens.oh.us</a>   | <b>Hamilton</b><br>Liz Atwell<br><a href="mailto:eatwell@mhankyswoh.org">eatwell@mhankyswoh.org</a><br>Jessica Ball<br><a href="mailto:jball@mhankyswoh.org">jball@mhankyswoh.org</a>   | <b>Portage</b><br>John Garrity<br><a href="mailto:johnq@mental-health-recovery.org">johnq@mental-health-recovery.org</a><br>Josh Bartholomew<br><a href="mailto:jbartholomew@streetsboropolice.com">jbartholomew@streetsboropolice.com</a> |
| <b>Belmont/Harrison/Monroe</b><br>Patty Allen<br><a href="mailto:patriciaa@bhmbboard.org">patriciaa@bhmbboard.org</a>   | <b>Hancock</b><br>Dan Harmon<br><a href="mailto:dharmon@findlayohio.com">dharmon@findlayohio.com</a>  | <b>Preble</b><br>Whitney Lofts<br><a href="mailto:Whitney.lofts@pcmhbrb.org">Whitney.lofts@pcmhbrb.org</a>   |
| <b>Butler</b><br>Rhonda Benson<br><a href="mailto:rbenson@nami-bc.org">rbenson@nami-bc.org</a>  | <b>Huron</b><br>Melanie White<br><a href="mailto:mawhite@namissw.org">mawhite@namissw.org</a>   | <b>Richland</b><br>Mary Kay Pierce<br><a href="mailto:families@namirc.org">families@namirc.org</a>   |
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# National News and Updates

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## CIT International – Conference Registration

CIT International's annual conference will be held on August 16 – 18, 2021 in Phoenix, Arizona. For more information and to register, visit [www.citinternational.org/events](http://www.citinternational.org/events)

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



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