



OHIO CIT NEWS

 Spring 2023

Ohio CIT Program Coordinators: Leading the Success of CIT in Ohio

CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) arrived in Ohio in 2000. Since that time, CITs and CIT programs have grown and flourished across our state. CIT program coordinators have been central to that growth and play a vital role in improving outcomes when law enforcement interacts with persons in crisis. CITs and CIT program coordinators work to ensure that those experiencing a crisis in their community are treated with dignity, respect, and compassion.

But ...where did the CIT program coordinator role come from?

The first CIT model originated with the Memphis Police Department in Memphis, Tennessee, and was based on one individual agency with an identified coordinator. As CIT developed in Ohio beyond individual law enforcement agencies, it became clear that the mental health and recovery boards were central partners and in most instances, the logical coordinating entity to ensure that CIT training and relationships with the mental health system were available to and consistent for all participating police agencies in their catchment area. This organizational model allowed for investment and buy-in from existing systems and room for individual law enforcement agencies to continue to have their own internal coordinators for their officers and jurisdictions.

This unique parallel model of CIT coordination – CIT program coordinators covering a mental health board catchment area with individual agency CIT coordinators as partners – has proven to be accidentally visionary for Ohio, creating capacity for growth across the state and an infrastructure that will aid in the ongoing development of a comprehensive crisis response system. Now, CIT program coordinators represent a variety of collaborative partners including local NAMI affiliates, law enforcement, mental health agencies, and mental health boards.

The CIT program coordinator is a unique position. For some, the responsibilities and tasks are woven into their existing duties that allow them more time to dedicate to CIT. In other programs, coordinators volunteer their time and struggle to manage these extra responsibilities. Either way, they are juggling many commitments while still advancing the goals of Ohio CIT programs. They lead a one-of-a-kind collaboration directly with law enforcement, mental health, and advocacy partners. They bring a culture of care, compassion, and empathy to the law enforcement community. They invest time and energy into these relationships and into their safety and wellness.

CIT program coordinators work to bring together community partners and leadership to collaborate and find solutions to challenging issues. They willingly engage in and encourage arduous conversations about their local crisis response system and about how their criminal justice and mental health systems can work together. While these conversations are not always successful, they persevere knowing that commitment to ongoing improvement and engagement is imperative to building relationships, strengthening crisis response systems, and sustaining CIT programs.

They ensure that the voices and experiences of those with lived experience, their families, and other advocates, are represented in CIT programs, training courses, and steering committees. The insights, feedback, and stories of people with lived experience have directly impacted the perceptions of law enforcement and crisis response partners. These stories help reduce stigma about mental illness, and their inclusion in CIT programs provides a crucial first-hand perspective that helps first responders relate to a person experiencing a crisis.

CIT program coordinators have a strong history of finding each other, offering guidance, and supporting each other. They share materials, stories, insights, resources, and information freely while welcoming new coordinators to their trainings, offering sample agendas and documents, and always collaborating as peers. They also can't work in a vacuum within their own communities. CIT program coordinators cultivate relationships with their area law enforcement agencies, mental health agencies, advocacy groups, people with lived experience, and increasingly with local Fire/EMS and other entities within their local crisis response systems. No CIT program coordinator or CIT program thrives without the support of these key partners.

The success of CIT in Ohio is in part due to the dedication, commitment, time, and devotion of CIT program coordinators across the state. Ohio's accomplishments could not have been achieved without their efforts over the last two decades. By following the CIT model and the Ohio CIT Core Elements, Ohio will continue to develop and enhance CIT programs across the state with the goals of improving outcomes and the safety of everyone in situations when law enforcement officers interact with persons in crisis. CIT programs will continue to increase understanding of, accessibility to, and improve responsiveness by our crisis response systems. With strong local leadership and partnerships, communities will continue to improve how they deflect or divert persons in crisis from the criminal justice system to treatment alternatives when possible. Communities will continue to transform crisis response systems to use law enforcement officers as first responders only when there is an immediate or imminent threat to safety or a serious criminal concern.

Ohio CIT programs and CITs will continue to do this because of the partnerships across Ohio, which have been fostered and grown by CIT program coordinators, who have each other as supports, cheerleaders, resources, and partners.



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Recent Ohio CIT Course Graduates

Tri-County Board of Recovery and Mental Health Services CIT Academy completed a CIT Patrol Officer Training course in December 2022



Hamilton County completed a CIT Patrol Officer Training course in January 2023



Montgomery County ADAMHS Board completed a Public Safety Telecommunicators CIT Training course in January 2023



Recent Ohio CIT Course Graduates

The ODRC NW Region hosted a CIT Training course in January 2023



The ODRC Correctional Training Academy (CTA) hosted a CIT Training course in January 2023



Dayton Correctional Institution completed a CIT Training course in January 2023



Recent Ohio CIT Course Graduates

Summit County completed a CIT Patrol Officer Training course in February 2023



Tuscarawas County completed a CIT Patrol Officer Training course in February 2023



The ODRC Correctional Training Academy (CTA) hosted a CIT Training course in February 2023



Recent Ohio CIT Course Graduates

The ODRC NW Region hosted a CIT Training course in February 2023



Lorain County completed a Public Safety Telecommunicator CIT Training course in February 2023



Stark County completed a CIT Patrol Officer Training course in March 2023



Recent Ohio CIT Course Graduates

Mental Health Recovery Board of Clark, Greene, & Madison held its first CIT Awareness & Refresher Course in March 2023



Montgomery County held a CIT Refresher Course in March 2023



Recognition and Honors

Congratulations, Erin Rieder!
Montgomery County CIT Telecommunicator of the Quarter



Congratulations, Brandon Spatz!
Montgomery County Peer Support Award Winner



2023 Ohio Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Conference

This year's Ohio CIT Conference will be held in-person on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at The Conference Center at OCLC (6600 Kilgour Place Dublin, OH 43017) from 10:00AM-4:00PM (with check-in starting at 9:30AM.)

The deadline to register for the conference is March 31st

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Ohio Conference is jointly presented by the National Alliance on Mental Illness Ohio Chapter (NAMI Ohio) and the Northeast Ohio Medical University Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence (CJ CCoE). This conference brings together CIT Coordinators and program partners representing the law enforcement, mental health, and advocacy fields of Ohio to enhance their knowledge of CIT and gain insights to further develop their CIT Programs.

This year's conference will feature:

- A morning keynote from Matt Dorgan of *Building Bridges for Brianna* and featured speaker from the 2022 Crisis Intervention Team International Conference.
- An afternoon closing from Cory Dobbelaere, Ohio advocate and author.
- NiCole Thomas will present on *The Impact of Trauma on Brain: Healing our Communities*.
- Teresa Russell of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will present on *Mitigating Crisis in a Correctional Setting*.
- Steven Click, Director of Ohio Office of First Responder Wellness, will present on *First Responder Wellness Self-Care for First Responders: PST's and Call Takers*.
- Chief Jerome Klue and Lt. William Heilmeier, from Akron Children's Hospital Police Department will present on *Creating a Collaborative and Comprehensive Mental Health Program*.
- Betsy Johnson & Bradley Tarr of the Treatment Advocacy Center will present on *Stopping the Revolving Door*.
- Kimberly Farrier, Montgomery County ADAMHS Board, will present on *So You Say You are a CIT Coordinator, Now What?*
- Deb Hrouda of the BeST Center & Dr. Doug Smith of the Summit County ADM Board will present on *Interacting with a Person Experiencing Psychosis*.
- Paul Hartinger will present on *Changing the Outlook for Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training in America*.
- The 2023 Ohio CIT Awards will be presented by Ret. Justice Evelyn Stratton and OhioMHAS Assistant Director Lois Hochstetler.

For more information, [click here](#). To register, [click here](#).



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Online Training Opportunity – QPR for Law Enforcement

The Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Institute provides an online QPR for Law Enforcement training. This certificate training is designed to provide the skills and techniques needed in suicide prevention for those working in law enforcement. This training is completely online and takes about 3 hours to complete; however, individuals can stop and start the training as the training platform bookmarks progress. Registration is on a first come first served basis.

This training is **free** when requested through the CJ CCoE. Please instruct law enforcement officers to register for the training [here](#).

Upon registration, officers will be provided a code to access a CJ CCoE training slot.

To learn more about QPR for Law Enforcement training, please [click here](#).

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact

Mekal Banyasz @ mbanyasz@neomed.edu

In Jail Mental Health Services Technical Assistance Session

Wednesday April 12th from 10:00AM-11:00AM

Mental health services within jail facilities are crucial to the care and wellbeing of inmates diagnosed with mental illness. This TA session will feature speakers from three Ohio jails to discuss how they are providing in-jail mental health services at their facilities. Topics to be discussed will include the history of establishing these services at their facilities, the structure of the services, who their providers are, engaging and encouraging community mental health providers to come to the jail to provide services for their incarcerated clients, lessons learned and successes.

Registration is required. To register, please visit

<https://neomed.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYoc-uqrDliGt0wV2Lv44rgY2io133tRgLW>

Ohio CIT Coordinator Training Course

June 20, 2023, from 8:00AM - 5:00PM at the State of Ohio Library

(274 E. First Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43201)

This course is free of charge and will provide the trainee with the tools, materials, and knowledge they need to enhance their community's CIT program. The goal of this course is to utilize the 10 CIT Core Elements to establish a fully operational CIT program. In addition, the course is discussion-based, therefore please be prepared to discuss the current CIT program in your community.

This course is designed for new and seasoned CIT Coordinators. We strongly encourage county wide program coordinator(s) and law enforcement agency coordinators to attend. Registration information will be forthcoming.

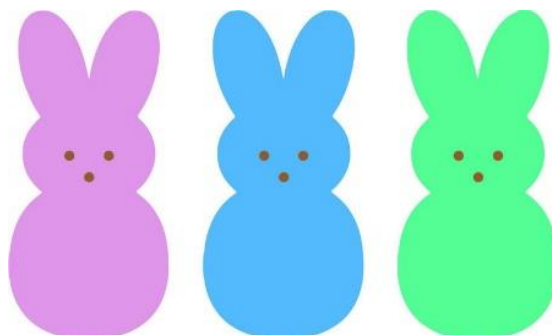


Upcoming CIT Courses

Wood County	April 3-6, 2023
Lorain County	April 17-21, 2023
Lake County	April 24-28, 2023
Miami, Darke, Shelby Counties	April 24-28, 2023
Summit County	April 24-28, 2023
Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot, Erie, Ottawa, & Huron Counties	April 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25, 2023
Delaware & Morrow Counties	May 1-5, 2023
Paint Valley	May 1-5, 2023
Washington County	May 1-5, 2023
Hamilton County	May 8-12, 2023
Richland County	May 8-12, 2023
Hamilton County	May 15-19, 2023

For a complete list of trainings, visit:
<https://www.neomed.edu/cjccoe/cit/training-calendar/>

Please advise Ashley Eads at aeads@neomed.edu of your planned CIT Courses for 2023 to be featured in our newsletter and send your completed training rosters to Mekal Banyasz at mbanyasz@neomed.edu.



Ohio CIT Program Coordinator Contact Information

Note: Information is subject to change

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National News and Updates

CIT International – Conference Registration

CIT International's annual conference will be held on August 14-16, 2023, in Detroit, Michigan. For more information and to register, visit

<https://www.citinternational.org/events>

Please share with your local CIT officers and Law Enforcement agencies.



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