



OHIO CIT NEWS



Winter 2021



CIT Honors and Recognition Matter

By: Robert Kasprzak

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Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Lucas County

“All you need are these: certainty of judgment in the present moment; action for the common good in the present moment; and an attitude of gratitude in the present moment for anything that comes your way.”- Marcus Aurelius

“On September 8, 2020 the father of an 18-year-old male called 911 because his son was threatening suicide with a firearm. When officers arrived on scene, they were immediately able to safely extract two females from the house and have a CIT trained officer initiate contact with the male who was in crisis. That officer was Patrolman Jerome Fatzinger of the Wooster Police Department. Patrolman Fatzinger used skills he learned during his CIT training (class of 2010) to eventually bring a truly dangerous situation to a peaceful resolution. He was told that the male had a plan to come outside with the gun and force the police to shoot him. Patrolman Fatzinger was able to successfully build this foundation of trust to the point where the male agreed to leave the gun in the house and come outside to get the help he so desperately needed. Patrolman Fatzinger was calm, patient, and compassionate the entire time. His actions epitomize what CIT is all about and this man is alive due to the peaceful resolution. During this incident, several officers worked as a team; however, at the center of it all was Patrolman Fatzinger using his skills as a CIT officer.”

This account was taken from the 2021 CIT International First Responder of the Year winning nomination of Patrolman Jerome Fatzinger. Prior to this, Patrolman Fatzinger received the 2021 State of Ohio CIT Officer of The Year Award.

Patrolman Fatzinger displayed certainty of judgement at the right moment; acted for the common good in the moment; and during his acceptance speech he showed gratitude towards everyone connected to CIT programs across the state, his department, and the team on scene with him that day.

Not every CIT recognition is for heroics. There is a lot of value in someone who is building relationships between police departments, the mental health system, schools, the courts, the developmental disabilities system, hospitals, crisis centers, and jails. Numerous important actions are made by individuals who are improving CIT Programs across our state. These are individuals convening Steering and Sub Committees, reviewing data, advocating for better community collaboration, and coordinating consumers and their family members to speak at our trainings. And let us not forget the 15+ instructors at each one of our trainings.

It is the duty of each CIT program to identify and publicly recognize a Patrolman Fatzinger on their TEAM. One of the easiest ways to develop group cohesiveness is to publicly show people that they are appreciated. And a word of warning: showing gratitude can be contagious to your Program. Your Steering Committee attendance will increase, you will have more Chiefs calling you to get their people into your trainings, and your TEAM will have a true sense of belonging.

Each year, NAMI Ohio and the Criminal Justice CCoE offer the opportunity for each program to recognize CIT Patrol Officers, Coordinators, Persons with Lived Experience, Corrections Professionals, Champions, Law Enforcement Administrators, Public Safety Telecommunications and Health Professionals. I know intuitively that each program has outstanding individuals on their TEAM. Awards will bring awareness to that well deserved individual, it will draw positive attention to your program, and it will increase your credibility in the community.

My call to action is this: identify someone who has shown great CIT judgement and who acted on behalf of someone in crisis and bring them the attention they deserve. There's no better way to say, "thank you."

"I feel honoring our officers in the CIT realm is of the highest importance. We as officers are not usually recognized for our efforts, especially when it comes to crisis intervention. We're told it's part of the job. Unfortunately, the people telling us that don't realize the patience, empathy and internal fortitude it takes to interact with someone in a mental health crisis, hoping for the best but also planning for the worst. Crisis interventions are intense and mentally draining for the officers involved. The officers who take on the added responsibilities of CIT are champions within their departments, pressing forward with the CIT Core Values, are my heroes."

- Sergeant Andy Suvada (retired)

Streetsboro Police Department

2010 CIT International CIT Officer of the Year



Ohio CIT Recognition and Marketing

Recognition for CIT Officers comes in many forms. Recognition activities that fit your CIT Program can enhance morale and relationships between the CIT Program and the surrounding community. It is important to consider public individual recognition, internal individual recognition, small and big gestures of recognition, and to remember that recognition is more than awards. CIT Coordinators need to strategically and regularly incorporate recognition of their program, officers and partners. It is important to talk to your CIT Program members to better understand what recognition they would like and what recognition they do not want. While certain aspects of recognition should be considered essential to being a CIT Officer, such as a pin to help the community identify them while on duty, it should also fit well with your program and community. Beyond recognition, the marketing of a CIT Program within its community includes raising awareness about CIT, educating community members about CIT and how to access a CIT Officer during a crisis. Promotion of CIT should emphasize the partnerships that CIT Programs forge between law enforcement, other first responders, mental health providers, the crisis response system and community members.

Below is a collection of recognition and marketing ideas and considerations for your CIT Program and examples of these from around the state:

Wearable recognition

Before purchasing wearable recognition, make sure to check in with your jurisdictions and agencies. You want to ensure that what you purchase is something that individuals feel comfortable wearing and is an acceptable component of their work attire. For example, pins and small ribbons can be worn with most first responder uniforms, but hats, jackets and t-shirts might only be able to be worn when off-duty.



- Mercer Paulding Van Wert

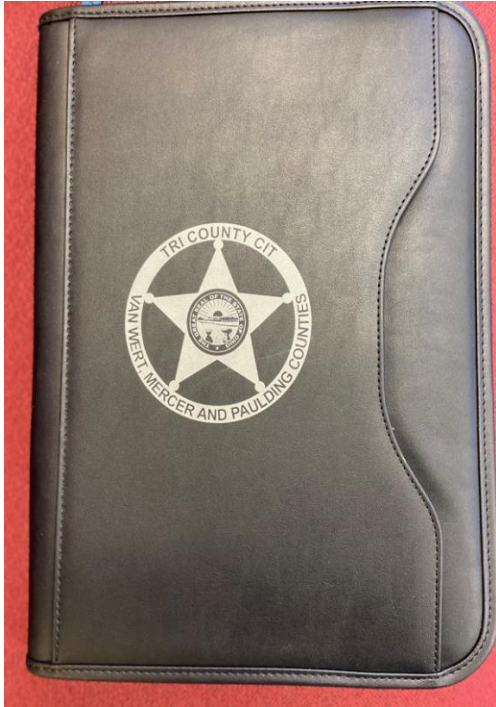


-Medina County

Ohio CIT Recognition and Marketing cont.

Other CIT “Swag”

Your program may be interested in other types of non-wearable “swag” to enhance recognition of CIT. Popular items will be the most usable items – such as padfolios, pens, and water bottles. For officers, challenge coins may also be a popular choice.



- Mercer Paulding Van Wert



-Hamilton



-Washington

Ohio CIT Recognition and Marketing cont.

Press Release and Media Invites

Having a ready-to-go press release template is a great way to make sure that local media always knows when a CIT course has happened. In your template, you can consider including a brief description of CIT, the history of CIT in your community, updates and pictures of training course graduates. We have also seen CIT Programs invite both print and video media to CIT Patrol Course graduations. You can also consider a press release template for your CIT Program awards. Creating a template will save time and help ensure this information goes out regularly. CIT Programs can see examples of press releases in the Ohio CIT in the News emails sent by the CJ CCoE and by connecting with other programs in the area.

Newsletters

Your program could consider making its own newsletter to share stories, information and resources. You could also disseminate this newsletter to partners in the CIT community, such as mental health and advocacy organizations. Newsletters can be posted digitally or printed and mailed. If having your own newsletter isn't a fit for your CIT program, consider contributing to other existing newsletters in your community. Many of your community partners may have their own newsletters established which you could submit articles, press releases and announcements to on a regular basis.

WINTER 2020 | ISSUE 1

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM NEWSLETTER

Union County CIT Steering Committee

WHAT IS CIT?

Have you recently heard the term CIT and wondered what it means for you and your community? CIT stands for Crisis Intervention Team and is modeled after the Memphis Crisis Intervention Team which began in 1988. CIT is a community-based collaboration of the local law enforcement, mental health professionals, medical professionals, peer support, mental health consumers, and many more. CIT's main goal is for community partners to work together to develop, establish, and implement safe and proactive techniques to defuse emotionally charged situations which could lead to arrest, injury, and not receiving the proper care which one needs. Law Enforcement Officers attend a 40hr training to be certified as a CIT Officer.



40 HOUR CIT TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Local law enforcement professionals recently participated in a 40hr basic CIT training to be certified as CIT officers. Through partnership with Champaign and Logan counties, during the week of October 19-23, 16 additional personnel were certified. Individuals that attended received training on de-escalation techniques, legal/law, excited delirium, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, dementia, and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) services. At the end of the training, the class participants went through an 8hr training day that focused specifically on role playing scenarios to reflect potential real-world encounters. The professionals were able to apply lessons, techniques, and new skills to recognize individuals in crisis and find a more applicable resolution for the person in crisis rather than jail or using force.

FUTURE TRAININGS

The Union County Steering Committee is pursuing future trainings in Autism Spectrum Disorder, Veterans in Crisis, and Dementia. Date and Time TBD. If a person is in crisis, please call 1-800-731-5571 or 911 in an emergency

CIT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April 2021
Volume 1 | Issue 3



Winter is over! In Ohio this is a monumental period and should be recognized as a state holiday, or at least that is my belief. Spring is also the time when First Responders are recognized for their contributions to public safety. First is National Public Safety Telecommunication week, April 11th-17th and even though you are a voice on the other end of the line, you are not forgotten and are appreciated! In fact, you are the first voice both an individual in crisis and responding officer hears and reaches out to in these critical moments. You telecommunication officers are an integral part of the CIT program and we recognize you and your efforts! At the end of this month, we will be conducting another CIT training for the unique needs of our dispatchers.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Community Resources
- CIT Success Story
- Upcoming Training
- Mobile Crisis Team
- expanding services
- Ten De-escalation Tips
- CIT Award and Recognition
- Bills & Laws

Next month, May 15th, is National Law Enforcement Memorial Day. Typically law enforcement officers take that week to pay tribute to our nation's capital to those officers who have died in the line of duty. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this has been rescheduled until October; however time will still be taken in May to acknowledge and mark this solemn occasion. During this period, members of the law enforcement profession will unite with the survivors and other members of our communities to remember and pay tribute to those we have lost. Due to the nature of the remembrance this time can be difficult for some and even harder for others. It is therefore really important to remember to utilize self-care strategies and draw upon the support systems each of us has in place if this resonates as a particularly difficult time. Be aware of your fellow officers, both active and retired, and reach out if you know or see someone in need of assistance.

-Union

-Lake

Ohio CIT Recognition and Marketing cont.

Media Campaigns

A media campaign can be an effective way to garner attention and recognition of your CIT program. Some options to consider if you are going to invest in a campaign are social media, printed materials such as posters and brochures, print news, TV, radio, billboards or other signage. Keep in mind, once designed, the digital versions of your marketing can be used in newsletters, press releases, and social media posts. Aligning with another recognition campaign, such as in October for Mental Health Awareness Month, March for National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, or September for National Suicide Prevention Month, helps to demonstrate the relationship between the law enforcement and mental health fields. Your community partners may have marketing campaigns already planned that could include your materials. Once created, marketing materials can be reused several times with minor updates over time when needed. This can also be as simple as adding a CIT Program logo to email signatures!

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.

StarkMHAR.org
StarkMHAR.org

-Stark

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.

StarkMHAR.org
StarkMHAR.org

CIT trained for positive outcomes.

CIT trained for a mental health crisis.

CIT trained for my community.

To learn more and find resources in your local community go to: http://starkcounty.org/firstresponders

More than training, building hope.

WHO: The Ohio State University Police and Sheriff's Offices, and various regional and local law enforcement agencies.

WHAT: CIT has trained over 10,000 law enforcement officers in Ohio.

WHY: CIT bridges the gap between law enforcement and those with a mental health crisis, improving the effectiveness of law enforcement officers and citizens.

GOAL: CIT's goal is to have every law enforcement officer in Ohio be able to respond to a mental health crisis.

-Paint Valley

Ohio CIT Recognition and Marketing cont.

Social Media

Your program could also consider having their own social media presence. However, managing a social media presence and keeping it active can be an intimidating project. You could select one jurisdiction or community partner that already has an active social media presence to post CIT information. This could include digital versions of ads, newsletters, press releases, feature articles, and links to any news coverage. Sending this same information to your community partners and tagging them on any posts can help push the recognition of your CIT program out to new community populations. Two Ohio CIT Facebook pages include “Portage County Crisis Intervention Team” and “Findlay CIT – Crisis Intervention Team”. Social media can also include videos that promote your program, such as this brief video from Mahoning County:

Mahoning County Mental Health & Recovery Board – Crisis Intervention Training for Police Officers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aG0kNqiDEyl>

Stark County Mental Health & Recovery Board – Crisis Intervention Team Training

<https://starkmhar.org/programs/crisis-intervention-team/>

CIT Items in Public Areas

Some CIT Programs have made investments in “signature swag” pieces for their training centers or other public areas. These items provide an opportunity to actively recognize the CIT program during events and to also passively promote it by having it present in a public space.



[Click here](#) to view the recording of the Technical Assistance Session on Recognition and Honors held on December 15, 2021

Congratulations

The Mahoning County Mental Health and Recovery Board hosted the 2021 Mental Health and Recovery Awards on September 10, 2021.

Awardees:

- CIT Officer of the Year: Lieutenant Salvatore Pascarella of the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office
- Organization of the Year: Mahoning County Family and Children First Council
- Critical Incident Stress Management Award: Lieutenant Tom Collins of the Austintown Police Department
- Frontline Staff of the Year: Suicide Crisis Hotline Help Network of Northeast Ohio
- Support Staff of the Year: Lucia Lovell of the Mahoning Valley Probate Court
- Leadership Award: Pastor Michael Harrison of Union Baptist Church
- Advocate Award: Ellen Taylor of Compass Family Community Services



Recent Ohio CIT Graduates

Stark County Completed CIT Patrol Officer Training August 30 – September 3, 2021.



Gallia/Jackson/Meigs Counties Completed CIT Patrol Officer Training September 2021.



Hamilton County Completed Two CIT Patrol Officer Trainings in October and November 2021.



Fairfield County Completed CIT Patrol Officer Training November 1 – 5, 2021.



Lucas County Completed CIT Patrol Officer Training November 1 – 5, 2021



Richland County Completed CIT Patrol Officer Training November 1 – 5, 2021



Upcoming CIT Courses

- Cuyahoga County January 10-14, 2022
- Hamilton County January 24-28, 2022
- Montgomery County January 24-28, 2022
- Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot, Erie, Ottawa and Huron Counties February 3, 10, 17, 24 & March 3, 2022
- Cuyahoga County February 7-11, 2022
- Cuyahoga County February 28-March 4, 2022
- Cuyahoga County March 21-25, 2022
- Hamilton County March 21-25, 2022
- Cuyahoga County April 4-8, 2022
- Cuyahoga County April 11-15, 2022
- Cuyahoga County April 25-29, 2022
- Montgomery County April 25-29, 2022
- Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot, Erie, Ottawa and Huron Counties April 28, May 5, 12, 19, & 26, 2022
- Cuyahoga County May 9-13, 2022
- Hamilton County May 9-13, 2022
- Wood County May 2-5, 2022
- Cuyahoga County May 23-27, 2022
- Cuyahoga County June 13-17, 2022
- Cuyahoga County June 27-July 1, 2022

Please advise Ashley Eads at aeads@neomed.edu of your planned CIT Courses for 2022!



2022 Ohio CIT Awards Nominations

The portal for the 2022 CIT Advanced Training Conference Nominations will open in early 2022.

Listed below are the titles and descriptions of the Ohio CIT Award Categories:

CIT Patrol Officer of the Year

This award recognizes a CIT Patrol Officer who has made a significant impact in their community and demonstrates a strong commitment to achieving the goals of CIT. As a primary responder to people in crisis, the officer has demonstrated outstanding ability to safely resolve crisis encounters and effectively utilize treatment alternatives. This award is to honor their commitment to improving outcomes for people in crisis and to recognize the values of community policing and justice.

Public Safety Telecommunications Professional of the Year

This award recognizes a telecommunicator who has made a significant impact in their community and demonstrates a strong commitment to achieving the goals of CIT. As a first responder to people in crisis, the telecommunicator has demonstrated outstanding ability to help safely resolve crisis encounters and improve outcomes when interacting with persons in crisis.

Michael S. Woody CIT Coordinator of the Year

This award recognizes a CIT Coordinator who has made a significant impact in their community and demonstrates a strong commitment to achieving the goals of CIT. The coordinator can be from a multiagency program (CIT Program) or an individual agency (law enforcement, mental health, or advocacy) within a CIT Program. The coordinator has demonstrated a strong commitment to enriching their CIT program through strategies such as strengthening partner relationships and implementing ongoing improvement plans. This award is to honor their commitment to the CIT Model, improving outcomes for people in crisis, and the values of collaboration and community.

Health Professional of the Year

This award recognizes a health professional who has made a significant impact in their community and demonstrates a strong commitment to achieving the goals of CIT. The health professional has demonstrated a commitment to law enforcement's understanding of the crisis response system and transforming the local crisis response system to strategically utilize law enforcement for persons in crisis. This award is to honor their commitment to improving outcomes for people in crisis, and the values of collaboration and community.

Person with Lived Experience of the Year

This award recognizes a person with lived experience that has made an impact in their community and demonstrates a strong commitment to achieving the goals of CIT. The individual has contributed to their CIT Program's understanding of responding to persons in crisis and treatment alternatives. The nominee has provided their CIT Program with insight into treating persons in crisis with respect and dignity. This award is to honor their contributions and recognize the values of community, relationship building, and advocacy for others.

2022 Ohio CIT Awards Nominations cont.

Evelyn Lundberg Stratton CIT Champion of the Year

This award recognizes an individual who has gone above and beyond making an impact in their community and demonstrating a strong commitment to achieving the goals of CIT (locally, regionally, statewide, or nationally). The individual has advocated for the empathic care of those living in our communities and assists other communities in their development of the CIT Model. This award is to honor their leadership contributions and the values of compassion, influence, partnerships, and advocacy.

CIT Program of the Year

This award recognizes a Crisis Intervention Team (agency) or CIT Program (multi-agency) that has made a significant impact in their community and demonstrates a strong commitment to achieving the goals of CIT. The program has demonstrated a commitment to implementing the CIT Model and a dedication to improving outcomes for people in crisis. The program has shown success with diverting persons in crisis from the criminal justice system to treatment alternatives, when possible. This award is to honor their commitment to CIT and the values of collaboration, community, and justice.

CIT Corrections Professional of the Year

This award recognizes a corrections professional (state or county level) who has made a significant impact in their community and demonstrates a strong commitment to achieving the goals of CIT. In a correctional setting, the professional has demonstrated outstanding ability to safely resolve crisis encounters, improve outcomes of people in crisis, and utilize treatment alternatives, when possible.

Law Enforcement Administrator of the Year

This award recognizes a law enforcement administrator who has made a significant impact in their community and demonstrates a strong commitment to achieving the goals of CIT. As a leader in law enforcement, the administrator has demonstrated an outstanding ability to implement the Ohio Core Elements of CIT and engage other Crisis Intervention Teams or CIT programs to strengthen partnerships and practices. This award is to honor their commitment to the CIT Model and values of accountability, community policing, and justice.



Ohio CIT Support and Expansion Project

The CJ CCoE continues to administer funding through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for Ohio CIT Support and Expansion programming during State Fiscal Year 2022. The project will provide support for a variety of activities and training opportunities related to CIT program development. Specifically, the project will once again provide CIT program development subawards to Ohio county and multi-county CIT programs.

There is a limited amount of dollars still available for CIT program development subawards for those CIT programs that have not participated in the past or have not yet submitted an application for State Fiscal Year 2022. CIT program development applications can focus on any of the CIT core elements, including CIT training, trainer or speaker development, policies and procedures, information gathering and sharing, CIT coordinators, and recognition and honors.

To learn more about the CIT program development subawards, please contact Mekal Banyasz at mbanyasz@neomed.edu or 330-325-6702.

Ohio Crisis Academy: Emergency Hospitalization and the Pink Slip Process

This presentation is intended to assist community mental health professionals and their community partners in understanding Ohio's emergency hospitalization process and obtaining a working knowledge of its application. The roles and responsibilities of the various professionals involved in the emergency hospitalization process will be addressed as well as the requirements for pink slips. A panel discussion will offer the perspectives and inputs of the professionals involved in the process. Additionally, a client's and family testimonial will offer their personal perspective of the lived experience.

January 13, 2022 @ 1PM

Registration for this virtual training is now available [here](#).



Ohio CIT Program Coordinator or Contact information

Note: Information is subject to change

Allen/Auglaize/Hardin Rick Skilliter rskilliter@pvff.org	Hamilton Amanda Shaw ashaw@mhankyswoh.org	Richland Mary Kay Pierce families@namirc.org
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Belmont/Harrison/Monroe Patty Allen patriciaa@bhmboard.org	Lake Julie Kalina-Hammond jhammond@crossroads-lake.org Joe Parkin jparkin@crossroadshealth.org	Scioto/Lawrence/Adams Cyndy Bell c.bell@shawneemhc.org
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Geauga Brian Ayer AyerB@Ravenwoodmhc.org	Preble Whitney Lofts Whitney.lofts@pcmhrb.org	

National News and Updates

CIT International – Conference Registration

CIT International's annual conference will be held on August 29-31, 2022 in Pittsburgh, PA. Registration and hotel reservations have opened. Call for Presentations will open January 10, 2022. Please visit this webpage for updated and ongoing details about the conference: www.citinternational.org/events.



Please disseminate to your local CIT officers and Law Enforcement agencies.



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COORDINATING CENTER
of EXCELLENCE**
A NEOMED CCoE