



OVERVIEW OF CIT

Kyle Dooley, NAMI St. Louis

What is CIT?

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program is a community partnership working with Law Enforcement, Mental Health professionals, Mental Health consumers and family members.

History of CIT

In 1987, Memphis officers shot and killed Joseph D. Robinson, a 27-year-old mentally ill man armed with a knife in the former LeMoyne Gardens public housing development in South Memphis. Police said Robinson was stabbing himself and charged at them. Robinson was fatally shot by officers several times.

Purpose:

The training promotes a win – win theory/solution. The consumer is connected with the services they need. Law enforcement can acquire a positive image with the consumer/ community and help them in connecting with the services they need.

CIT Officers:

▶ Selected/volunteer police officers take part in a 5-day, 40-hour training program.



▶ CIT has now spread to most major cities and over 3000 law enforcement agencies around the country.



CIT Program Benefits:

- ▶ Officer injuries during crisis have declined. EST: 70%
- ▶ Officer recognition and appreciation by the community and consumer has increased. Some families and consumers will actually request a certain CIT officer/deputy.
- ▶ Less “victimless” crimes arrests, i.e., Peace Disturbance, Disorderly Conduct, Failure to Comply.
- ▶ Decrease in liability for health care issues in the corrections facilities, ...Fewer suicides in DOC.
- ▶ Decrease the rate of mental illness in our jails.
- ▶ Cost savings.



How Family and Friends Can Assist CIT Officers When a Mental Health Crisis Occurs

- 
- . Find out if CIT is part of your police department.
 - . When calling for police, ask for a CIT officer.
 - . Keep a current list of medications and doctors' names and offer it to the CIT officer when he/she arrives.
 - . Meet the CIT officer outside if possible and fully explain the crisis and what you would like to happen.

- 
- . Make the CIT officer(s) aware of anything you know that upsets the person in crisis.
 - . Keep all guns out of the home.
 - . When the CIT officer arrives, advise them if the person is armed or has access to weapons. Remember, when weapons are involved, police concentrate on the possible threat of violence until it is neutralized.

- . Be prepared to go to the hospital – but remember all CIT calls do not necessarily mean a trip to the hospital.
- . Get to know your police department. Introduce your family member or friend to the police when they are not in crisis. Call you police department and have a CIT officer stop by your house when he/she has time to go to the police station when a CIT officer will be there.

- 
- . Understand, the CIT officer(s) will probably ask you to wait in an area away from the person in a crisis. Let the officer do thier job and only offer assistance if asked.

- 
- . Let you family member know the police are there to help.
 - . Educate yourself about your family members of friend's mental illness by requesting information from NAMI St. Louis.

- 
- ▶ Kyle Dooley
 - ▶ NAMI St. Louis
 - ▶ 636-262-0043
 - ▶ kdooley@namistl.org