

# Crisis Intervention Team Program Objectives

The objectives of this program are to:

- Train law enforcement officers to safely respond to people in crisis
- Protect the rights of people with mental illness and other brain disorders
- Ensure that people with mental illnesses and other brain disorders always receive treatment in lieu of incarceration, when appropriate
- Improve the quality and quantity of disability services
- Promote adequate training for criminal justice system personnel about mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, substance abuse and geriatric illnesses



The local chapters of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) are major advocates for consumers, families and police departments in our area.



Call 704-721-2700 or  
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## A Police-Based Pre-Booking Jail Diversion Program



# Crisis Intervention Team Program

The CIT Program is a community-based collaborative between consumers, families, the Mental Health LME, law enforcement agencies, mental health providers, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), consumer advocacy organization, the community college and the medical community.

Law enforcement officers are frequently first responders to people in crisis. Therefore, CIT training facilitates ongoing collaboration between law enforcement and the mental health community. CIT is designed to assist law enforcement officers who respond to incidents involving people experiencing a mental health crisis.

Police officers receive 40 hours of training on topics, including an Overview of Mental Health, Geriatrics, Substance Abuse/Co-Occurring Disorders, Special Concerns with Adolescents, Mental Health Commitment Process, Personality Disorders, Developmental Disabilities, Autism, Suicide, Trauma and its aftermath, Homelessness, Crisis Intervention and De-escalation.



# Strong Mental Health Partnerships

## **Strong mental health partnerships -**

Police officers respond to people in crisis using viable options, when appropriate, for linking individuals with needed mental health treatment in lieu of arrest and incarceration.

## **Significant consumer and family involvement -**

Consumer and family advocates are integrally involved in the design and implementation of CIT programs

40-Hour CIT Training Provides Officers with Tools...

- The skill to identify and effectively interact with people with substance abuse, mental health and/or developmental disabilities
- Basic medication awareness
- Verbal de-escalation skills
- Use of less-than-lethal weapons/force
- Face-to-face interactions with consumers and family members

Benefits of CIT for Law Enforcement Officers...

- Decrease in use of force during crisis events, which reduces injuries to officers
- Cost savings in time, money and resources
- Appropriate alternatives to arrest and incarceration
- Ongoing collaboration with mental health and advocacy resources
- Officer and department recognition and appreciation

# Benefits of CIT for Consumers and Families

Benefits of CIT for Consumers and Families...

- Reassurance that when a CIT Officer responds, he or she has special skills
- Decrease in use of force during crisis events
- Decrease in number of injuries to the consumer
- Respectful, effective police intervention during crisis
- Access to treatment and continuous care, rather than arrest and jail
- Positive relationships with mental health providers and law enforcement enhances trust
- Partners in advocacy and educational efforts
- Reduction in myths and stigma associated with mental illness

Benefits of CIT for the Mental Health System...

- Opportunities to get people the right services at the right time
- Decrease in use of expensive crisis resources
- Additional crisis response resources
- Ongoing collaboration with police and community resources
- Community partners in advocacy and educational efforts

