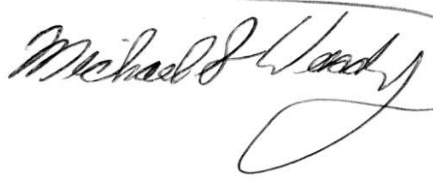# OHIO CIT NEWS

From the Ohio CIT Coordinator

In 1999, I was the Director of Training for the Akron Police Department. The Director of Training for the Akron Fire Department called and asked if I would be interested in becoming a member of an advisory committee at the Summit County ADM Board that he belonged to. He further stated that they were looking for a police presence and he thought I would be a good fit. I agreed and attended my first monthly meeting, which was held at 7am at the Community Support Services building (CSS) in Akron. Before I even sat down, I was handed a pamphlet that showed two Memphis Tennessee police officers kneeling on each side of what looked like a homeless person sitting on a bench. The title of this document was "The Memphis Crisis Intervention Team". The man that gave me the materials asked if I had heard of "CIT". I had not! He asked if I would read the material and give him my "take" on it. I told him I would.

I took the pamphlet to my office and found it very interesting and intuitive. It surmised that approximately 10% of calls an officer responded to have a mental health component and that police officers were generally not adequately trained to <u>de-escalate</u> these types of calls for service. The Memphis Police had responded to a call of what appeared to be a homeless man creating a disturbance in the street and brandishing a knife. After ordering him to "DROP THE KNIFE" several times to no avail and fearing for their own safety and the safety of others they shot and killed him. Some in the community asked, "Wasn't there something other than deadly force and commands they could have tried"?
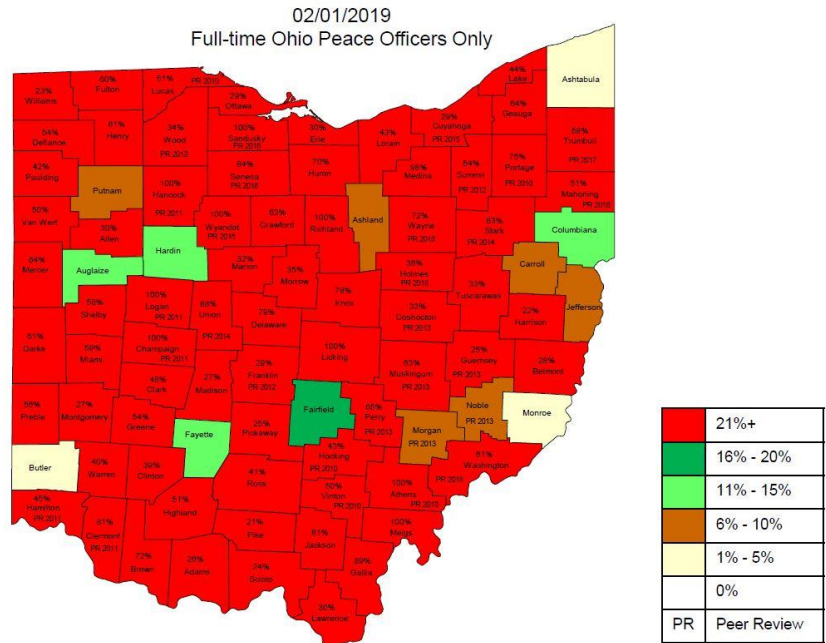
In response, the Memphis Police Department created CIT. "Special officers for special people". They were a large department that could easily select mature, experienced road officers to handle calls and could also train dispatchers to identify individuals with a potential mental health concern. So, after attending a 40-hour class these voluntary yet hand-selected officers responded to calls for service just like any other patrol officer but, when identified by the dispatcher as individuals with a mental health concern the call was given to officers that had been trained and therefore identified as Crisis Intervention TEAM members.

The mental health community providers, those with the illness and their loved ones, NAMI folks, and the CIT Supervisors, taught that 40-hour course that included such things as role-plays to practice what they learned.

CCOE OHIO CRIMINAL JUSTICE
COORDINATING CENTER
OF EXCELLENCE

It has taken a while, but I am proud to say that Ohio's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program is finally represented with trained officers in **all 88 counties!** I believe we lead the nation in that regard and therefore the world! There are just too many dedicated individuals to thank but I am sure those reading this were some of them!

Michael F Woody

Current Crisis Intervention Team Development

02/01/2019
Full-time Ohio Peace Officers Only

🟥	21%+
🟩	16% - 20%
🟢	11% - 15%
🟫	6% - 10%
⬜	1% - 5%
⬜	0%
PR	Peer Review

CIT Officers Span all Jurisdictions in Mahoning County

When Mahoning County started their CIT training classes in 2006, they vowed to have a CIT trained officer in each jurisdiction in the county. This goal was met after the March 2019 course. Congratulations to Mahoning County!

To read more, please visit: https://www.vindy.com/news/2019/mar/16/crisis-intervention-training-spans-mahon/

Five Steps to Develop a University Police Department Crisis Intervention Team

By Officer Jeff Futo

For various reasons, institutions of higher education are experiencing an increase in dealing with students in mental health crisis. More than ever, students need an institutional support system to assist them in achieving their collegiate goals. The university police department is a critical component of this support system, and it is essential that officers have a clear understanding of the role they play in responding to people in crisis. The proper response not only benefits the individual but contributes to the success and retention of employees and students.

The CIT model is one of the most popular trainings for police officers to attend to learn new skills about how to deal with people experiencing a mental health crisis. The week-long training, however, is only one of the core elements of the CIT model that guide police agencies on how to develop a successful CIT program. Instituting the core elements within your police agency supports CIT officers and dispatchers once they return from training. For an agency to receive the full benefit of training in the CIT model, they must organize their department to support this valuable community policing initiative.

Here are five steps to develop a Crisis Intervention Team:

- **Use CIT Officers.** Police agencies should choose officers who want to attend CIT training and would like to perform the extra duties of a CIT officer. When specific officers are designated as CIT, they should be the primary contact for people experiencing a mental health crisis. This not only allows CIT officers to develop relationships with those community members, but also allows them to develop their de-escalation skills and enhance their understanding of the mental health system. All specialized units are utilized in this manner and a Crisis Intervention Team is no exception.
- **Dispatchers are Team Members:** Dispatchers are an essential part of a police agency's Crisis Intervention Team and are often the first point of contact with a person in crisis. Dispatchers need to be trained in the appropriate way to handle people in crisis and how to direct that person to a CIT officer. Without proper training and guidance, dispatchers may not recognize that a person they are dealing with is in crisis and requires a specific police response. By including dispatchers, we hopefully ensure that the initial contact starts off on the right foot.
- **Designate a Leader:** A Crisis Intervention Team needs a leader and content expert who can direct the program and provide support to its members. The CIT coordinator is given the responsibility of not only maintaining partnerships outside the police agency, but leading day-to-day activities, providing in-service training, troubleshooting problems and directing data collection. The CIT coordinator is the champion for the Crisis Intervention Team within the police agency and guides it on how to follow the CIT model. All successful CIT programs need an active and engaged CIT coordinator.
- **Create Policy:** CIT coordinators should be involved with agency policy that directs officers and dispatchers on how to deal with people with mental disorders, people experiencing mental health problems and people in crisis. Whether it is creating new policy or updating current policy, formal policies should describe the expectations of Crisis Intervention Team members, the CIT program organization, and assign job responsibilities. When members' roles are clearly defined in policy, it empowers them to successfully perform their functions as CIT officers, dispatchers and coordinators.
- **Take Good Notes:** In order to determine if a CIT program is having an impact, agencies may need to collect information in a slightly different way. Often agencies have most of the information they need to analyze their program, they just aren't compiling it in a useful manner. By reviewing how an agency collects and retains information, CIT coordinators can devise a way of gathering information and analyzing it for the benefit of the program. University police agencies will find it useful to study this information to see how they can improve training, explain use of force issues, and show how they typically deal with mental health calls for service. Universities find the information valuable when applying for grants, analyzing student behavior and trends, and understanding how the agency typically responds when handling mental health incidents involving community members.

In conclusion, developing a Crisis Intervention Team within your university police department is an excellent way of adopting a proven and successful community policing initiative. Defining the roles of CIT members and providing them with formal support through policy and organizational structure empowers officers and dispatchers to specialize and grow in this field. Police administrators are encouraged to investigate the core elements of the CIT model, the framework on how to develop a successful CIT program.

For more information on the CIT model and its core elements please visit: https://www.neomed.edu/cjccoe/cit/

Ohio Program for Campus Safety and Mental Health

The **Ohio Program for Campus Safety and Mental Health (OPCSMH)** serves as a resource center promoting a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention and mental health promotion at college campuses across the state of Ohio. In collaboration with the CCOE, the OPCSMH has supported the training of campus police and security in CIT. As a result, since 2008, the number of CIT officers on Ohio campuses and the number of Ohio campuses that have CIT have more than doubled. The OPCSMH's primary goal is to stimulate collaboration between campus and community stakeholders, to develop programs that prevent campus suicide and to create a culture of care.

For more information, please reach out to Jessica Zavala, MPA, Manager of OPCSMH at jzavala@neomed.edu or 330-325-6767

Portage County CIT Officers of the Year

Officers Bill Atha of the Kent State University Police Department, Chris Hartlaub of the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) Police Department and Ryan Wolf of the Streetsboro Police Department were recognized as the CIT Officers of the Year by the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County and the Portage County Police Chiefs Association. The officers were awarded for practicing the communication and de-escalation techniques they learned during their CIT training.

Wayne and Holmes Counties Completed Advanced CIT Training in February 2019

Eleven officers from three village departments, both county sheriffs' offices, and security officers from one college in Wayne and Holmes Counties completed Advanced CIT training in February. The class focused on involuntary emergency admissions. NAMI of Wayne and Holmes Counties sponsored the program.

CIT Training Implementation in Calendar Year 2018

According to CIT training rosters submitted throughout the year, Ohio communities held 66 full-scale CIT courses in calendar year 2018 with the following disciplines completing the courses.

- 942 Sworn Officers
  - 368 Law Enforcement Agencies
  - 17 New Law Enforcement Agencies
- 281 Correction Officers
- 45 Dispatchers (does not include dispatch/call-taker only courses)

- 40 Fire EMS/Medics
- 28 Probation Officers
- 24 Mental Health Professionals
- 23 Hospital Security Officers
- 18 Court Personnel
- 11 Parole Officers
- 6 Campus Security Officers

This Graph Shows the Increase of CIT Courses and Attendance in Ohio Since its Beginning!

Personnel Trained Per Year
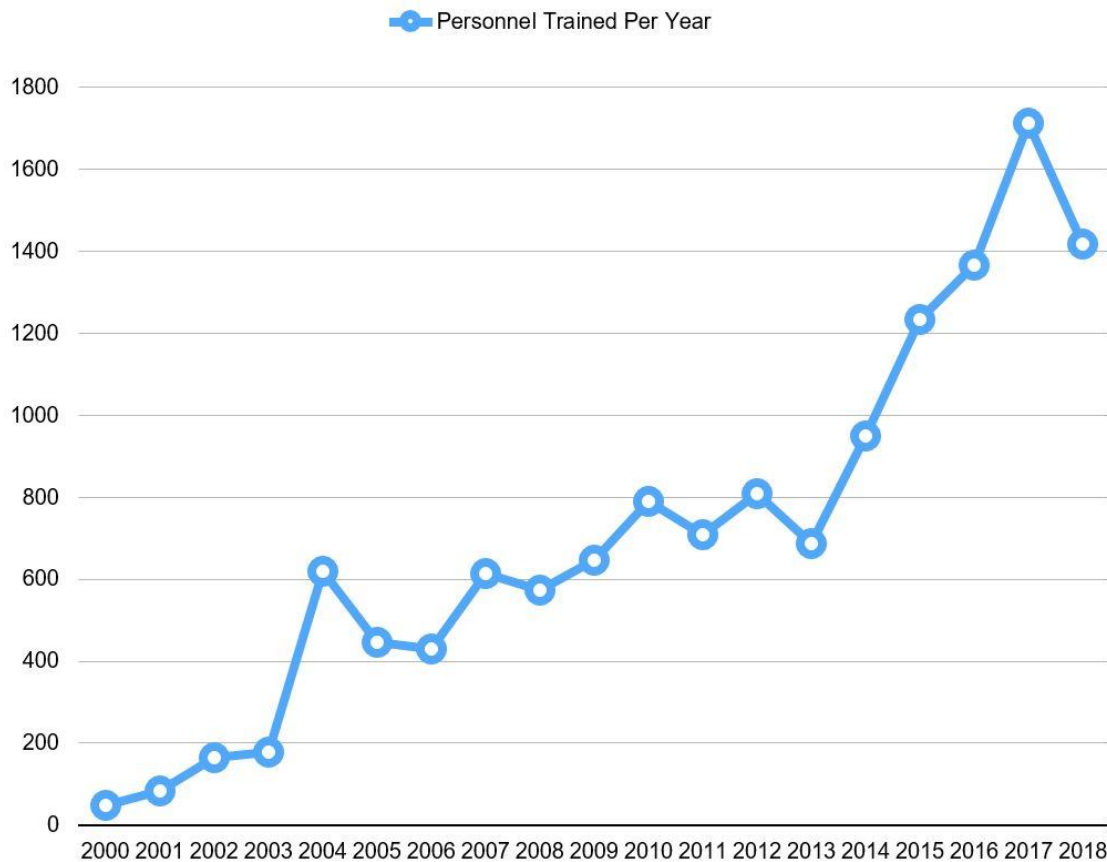
Save-the-Date: Ohio CIT Coordinator Semi-Annual Meeting

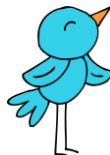**When**: Friday, April 26, 2019
Where: To Be Determined
Please save-the-date and pass word along to your local CIT Coordinators

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Save-the-Date: Advanced CIT Training Conference

Tentatively Hold: October 25, 2019 and October 18, 2019 (back-up)
Where: To Be Determined
Please save-the-date and pass word along to your local CIT Coordinators and CIT trained officers

Welcome New CIT Coordinators

- Adam Sorensen   Champaign and Logan Counties
- Karen Russell   Erie County
- Vicki Montesano   Lorain County
- John Garrity   Portage County

From NAMI Ohio

CIT Pins, Quick Reference Guides, and Hearing Voices Kits are available upon request.

NAMI | Ohio
National Alliance on Mental Illness

CIT Mini Grants for Training Expenses – 2018

All mini grant requests should be made to Dustin McKee at NAMI Ohio: dustin@namiohio.org.

CIT Mini Grants for Training Expenses

Mini grants in the amount of $1000 are now available for local CIT programs to offset the expense of holding a training. To request a mini grant, please send an e-mail with:

1. Date of the training
2. A sentence about how you plan to use the funds such as printing, room rental, speaker fees, etc. (these funds cannot be used for food or travel)
3. A list of the members of your CIT Steering Committee
4. Name of the entity that the check should be made out
5. Address to send the check
6. Acknowledgement that you will forward a completed roster of all CIT graduates to Mike Woody upon the completion of your training. His e-mail address is dutifulmind@gmail.com.

CIT Mini Grants for Law Enforcement Agencies

Mini grants in the amount of $1000 are available for law enforcement agencies that are sending a full-time Patrol Division assigned officer(s) to CIT training for the first time. If you are requesting a grant for a part-time officer, please send a brief written rationale as to why you want to train a part-time officer rather than a full-time officer (e.g. we are a small agency that needs to train part-timers to ensure an ample number of CIT officers in our force).

A limited number of mini grants will also be provided for law enforcement agencies that have not sent a full-time Patrol Division assigned officer to training for at least two years due to a lack of resources and have indicated that with financial assistance they would send an officer. To request a grant, please send an email from the CIT Coordinator that includes all of the following:

1. Date of the training
2. Name of the full-time officer(s) to attend
3. A sentence stating the law enforcement agency is only able participate if financial assistance is

provided
4. Name of a CIT Coordinator or contact person for the law enforcement agency
5. Name of the law enforcement agency that the check should be made out
6. Address to send the check (please let the appropriate party at the law enforcement agency know to expect the check)

CIT Mini Grants for Advanced Training
A limited number of mini grants in the amount of $500 are available for those communities wishing to offer CIT officers advanced training. To request a mini grant, please send an e-mail that includes:

1. Topic of the training
2. Date of the training
3. Number of hours of the training
4. A sentence about how you plan to use the funds such as printing, room rental, speaker fees, etc. (these funds cannot be used for food or travel)
5. Name of the entity that the check should be made out
6. Address to send the check to

CIT Mini Grants for CIT Program Officer Recognition Activities
A limited number of mini grants in the amount of $250 are available for those communities wishing to initiate CIT officer and program recognition activities to further the adoption of CIT core elements. This is limited to new recognition activities only. To request a mini grant, please send an e-mail that includes:

1. Date and nature of the event and award(s)
2. A description of how you plan to use the funds (cannot be used for food)
3. Name of person who will report on the activity after completion
4. Name of the entity the check should be made out to
5. Address to send the check to

CIT Mini Grants for Data Collection and Cross-System Collaboration
A limited number of mini grants in the amount of $1000 are available for those communities wishing to initiate or expand CIT data collection and reporting activities. Mini grants are not to include officer roster updating or maintenance. To request a mini grant, please send an e-mail that includes:

1. Description of planned data collection – what data will be collected, by what jurisdiction(s) it will be collection, how the data will be analyzed and reported, and the purpose of the data
2. Date of implementation of data collection
3. Anticipated timeline for reporting on the data and name of person who will provide report to NAMI and CCoE
4. Name of the entity the check should be made out to
5. Address to send the check to

CIT Mini Grants for Program Policies and Procedures Development
A limited number of mini grants in the amount of $500 are available for those communities wishing to develop/draft new CIT policies. Policies can be program level, county-wide, or complimentary mental health and law enforcement policies. To request a mini grant, please send an e-mail that includes:

1. Description of scope of policies being planned and jurisdictions/entities to be covered by policies
2. Date range for policy development work, with anticipated date of completion
3. Name of person who will submit final policy to CCoE and NAMI

4. Name of entity the check should be made to
5. Address to send the check to

CIT Mini Grants for CIT Dispatcher/Call-Taker Training Implementation
A limited number of mini grants in the amount of $500 are available to offset the costs of sponsoring CIT companion training for dispatchers. Preference will be given to communities that are sponsoring their first dispatcher training. To request a mini grant, please send an e-mail that includes:

1. Date of the training and target number of dispatchers to complete training
2. Names and jurisdictions of the dispatchers to attend (names can be submitted after training if not available in advance)
3. Name of entity sponsoring training
4. Training agenda (curriculum outline)
5. Name of entity the check should be made out to
6. Address to send the check

Dustin McKee – NAMI Ohio CIT Coordinator dustin@namiohio.org

Upcoming Ohio CIT Courses

- Miami, Darke and Shelby Counties   April 8-11
- Franklin County   April 8-12
- Lorain County   April 8-12
- Summit County   April 8-12
- Montgomery County   April 15-19
- Lake County   April 29-May 3
- Washington County   May 6-10
- Franklin County   May 13-17
- Lucas County   May 13-17
- Geauga County   May 20-24

Please advise Haley Farver at hdurig@neomed.edu of your planned CIT Courses for 2019!
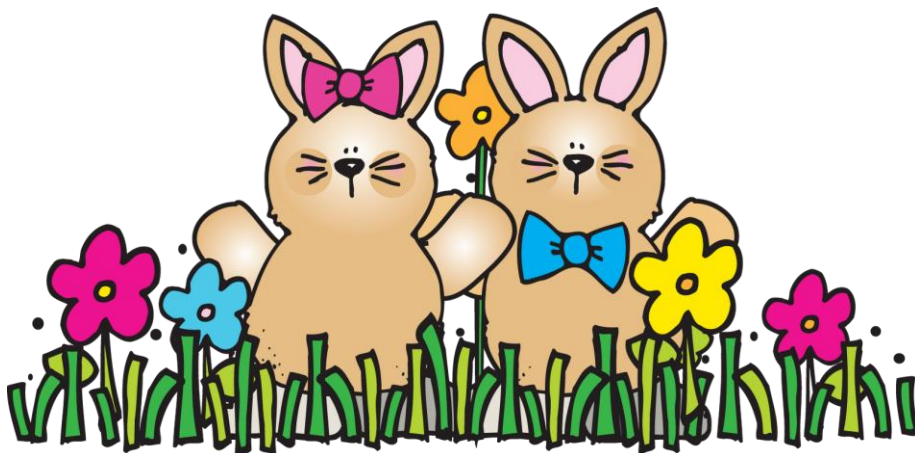
Ohio CIT Program Coordinator or Contact Information

Allen/Auglaize/Hardin
Rick Skilliter
rskilliter@pvff.org
Ed Monfort
jamesmonfort@gmail.com

Athens/Hocking/Vinton
David Malawista
dmalawista@ci.athens.oh.us

Belmont/Harrison/Monroe
Jayn Devney
Jaynd@bhmboard.org

Champaign/Logan
Adam Sorensen
asorensen@mhdas.org

Clark/Greene/Madison
Tracey Stute
Tracey@mhrb.org

Clermont
Lee Ann Watson
lwatson@ccmhrb.org
Chad Lutson
clutson@union-township.oh.us

Columbiana
Marcy Patton
mpatton@ccmhrsb.org
Richard Whitfield
rwhitfield@columbianaohio.gov

Crawford/Marion
Mark Light
mlight001@columbus.rr.com

Cuyahoga
Carole Ballard
ballard@adamhscc.org

Defiance/Fulton/Henry/Williams
Rob Giesige
rob@fourcountyadamhs.com

Delaware/Morrow
Denise Williams
dwilliams@ohiopps.org

Erie
Karen Russell
russelk@firelands.com

Fairfield
Maureen Muth Keller
mmuthkeller@ohiopps.org
Toni Ashton
tashton@ohiopps.org

Franklin
Irina Yakhnitskiy
iyakhnitskiy@adamhfranklin.org
Lt. Dennis Jeffry
djeffrey@columbuspolice.org

Gallia/Jackson/Meigs
Trisha Gibson
Trisha.Gibson@hopewellhealth.org
Scott Trussell
Scott.trussell@meigssheriff.org

Geauga
Brian Ayer
AyerB@Ravenwoodmhc.org

Hamilton
Paul Hartinger
phartinger@mhankyswoh.org

Hancock
Sgt. Dan Harmon
dharmon@findlayohio.com

Lake
Julie Kalina-Hammond
jhammond@beaconhealth.us

Licking/Knox
Tara Schultz
tschultz@mhrlk.org

Lorain
Vicki Montesano
vmontesano@lcmhb.org

Lucas
Robert Kasprzak
rkasprzak@lcmhrsb.oh.gov

Mahoning
Aimee Schweers
aschweers@mahoningcountyoh.gov
Toni Notaro
tnotaro@mahoningcountyoh.gov

Medina
Gail Houk
ghouk@alternativepaths.org

Mercer/Paulding/Van Wert
Gery Thobe
Gery.thobe@mercercountysheriff.org

Miami/Darke/Shelby (Tri-County)
Kim McGuirk
mcguirkk@tcbmds.org
Brad Reed
reedb@tcbmds.org

Montgomery
Jodi Long
JLong@mcadamhs.org
Det. Patty Tackett
Patricia.tackett@daytonohio.gov

Muskingum/Coshocton/Noble/Perry/Guernsey/Morgan
Ken Sheffield
ksheffield@allwell.org
Misty Cromwell
mistyc@mhrs.org

ODRC
Don Morgan
Donald.Morgan@odrc.state.oh.us

Ottawa
Laura Miller
millerla@firelands.com

Portage
John Garrity
johng@mental-health-recovery.org

Preble
Amy Raynes
Amy.raynes@pcmhrb.org

Richland
Mary Kay Pierce
families@namirc.org

Ross/Pike/Fayette/Highland/Pickaway (Paint Valley)
Melanie Swisher
mswisher@pvadamh.org

Scioto/Lawrence/Adams
Cyndy Bell
c.bell@shawneemhc.org

Seneca/Sandusky/Wyandot
Melanie White
mawhite@namissw.org
Angie Snell
Asnell29@yahoo.com

Stark
Erin Ivers
Erin.ivers@starkmhar.org
Major CJ Stantz
146@starksheriff.org

Summit
Doug Smith
DougSmith@admboard.org
Mike Woody
dutifulmind@gmail.com

Trumbull
John Myers
jmyers@trumbullmhrb.org
Lana Hennings
lhennings@trumbullmhrb.org

Tuscarawas/Carroll
Natalie Bollon
natalie@adamhtc.org
Cheri Creager
creagerc@co.tuscarawas.oh.us

Union
Matt Henry
MHenry@co.union.oh.us

Warren/Clinton
Wally Stacy
wstacy@clearcreektownship.com

Washington
Karen Binkley
karenebinkley@gmail.com

Wayne/Holmes
Helen Walkerly
hwalkerly@namiwayneholmes.org

Wood
Jessica Schmitt
Jessica@namiwoodcounty.org

Note: information is subject to change

National News and Updates

CIT International's annual Conference will be held on August 26-28, 2019 in Seattle, Washington. To register visit http://www.citinternational.org/events.   Please pass word along to your local CIT officers and Law Enforcement agencies.