



OHIO CIT NEWS

Spring 2022



Responses to Service Calls Involving a Person in Crisis Are Your Policies and Procedures CIT-Focused?

-Chris Bowling, Columbus Division of Police (retired)

Policies and procedures create the relationship between agencies that deliver policing services and the communities they serve. Policing services may be provided by a police officer, a deputy sheriff, a state trooper, or a member of another type of law enforcement agency. Policies dictate the level of discretionary action and guide agency personnel about what they *shall* or *must* do as well as what they *should* or *can* do. Procedures are the road map for agency personnel to comply with those agency policies. Both must be updated continually and must focus on the issues that affect policing services.

One policing service is responding to service calls about people in crisis. These calls involve a need to identify the person in crisis, identify who shall or should respond to such a call, and provide guidance about how to interact with the person in crisis more safely to resolve the call in the best manner possible. An essential element of these policies and procedures is a focus.

“Focused policies need to be developed and implemented. While policing in the United States, and worldwide, involves many variables and diverse situations, the enormous potential for problem incidents resulting from police-public interaction can be greatly minimized with the right policy.”

(Fodera, Alifano, & Savelli, 2005)

When implemented following core elements, Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) focus on how the community will respond to people in crisis. This focus on CIT provides the framework for responding to people in crisis since they identify all who should be involved along with the processes to get the right help for a person in crisis. That help may include getting the person to the right place to obtain needed services safely when those services are required without delay.

Police agencies must also ensure that the CIT-focused policies and procedures that they create align and can be integrated into the policies and procedures developed by other CIT stakeholders. These stakeholders include service providers, service boards, advocacy groups, county or regional jails, and the county court systems. These CIT-focused and integrated policies and procedures will minimize, or eliminate, conflict within the system by sharing information and data that facilitates connection to services for those in need. They also reduce or eliminate confusion and conflict as police officers, deputy sheriffs, state troopers, and other law enforcement officers bring those in crisis to a receiving center for immediate care.

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence (CJ CCoE) has created a resource to assist police agencies with developing policies and procedures for responding to people in crisis. The *Crisis Intervention Law Enforcement Policy Guide (CIT Focused)* is available to support police agencies with creating policies and procedures. It contains words and phrases to guide policy formation and sample policy and procedure language for agencies of all sizes. A CIT-focused addendum for public safety telecommunicators (PSTs) is also available for agencies that need to create or add to their policies and procedures on call taking and dispatching. Even if an agency uses policies and procedures from an external vendor about crisis intervention or response, this guide can provide an additional focus that will allow the agency to best respond to those in crisis and get them linked to the services they need to recover from a crisis.

References

Fodera, J., Alifano, C., & Savelli, L. (2005, November 16). *The importance of focused policy in modern policing*. Police1-Lexipol. <https://www.police1.com/legal/articles/the-importance-of-focused-policy-in-modern-policing-HtiGVFY66nwm3mAC/>

Utilize the two links below to connect to the policy guides from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence (CJ CCoE)

[Crisis Intervention LE Policy Guide](#) [PSTs Addendum to LE CIT Policy Guide](#)



Congratulations to Gallia, Jackson, Meigs Counties Officers of the Year!

Deputy Brandy King, Deputy Nick Clagg, and Deputy Jason Wilson



Recent Ohio CIT Course Graduates

Wayne and Holmes Counties completed a 40-hour CIT Course January 24-28





Justice Center
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Council of State Governments Justice Center's Community Responder Toolkit Helps Communities Reimagine Public Safety

New Toolkit Features Key Insights from Emerging and Established Community Responder Models Across the U.S.

NEW YORK, NY—On January 19, The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center and Vital Strategies hosted a virtual [Justice Briefing Live](#) event, promoting the first-of-its-kind toolkit, [“Expanding First Response: A Toolkit for Community Responder Programs.”](#) that was released last month. During the event, a panel of experts discussed how tailored community responder models across the country are meeting local needs, improving health outcomes, and reducing reliance on law enforcement.

For decades, Americans have called 911 when they are experiencing an emergency or are in need of assistance. While this can be an effective way to deploy first responders, many community advocates have argued that it too often results in police officers being dispatched to resolve situations better handled by health and social service professionals. Community responder programs allow health professionals and staff trained in crisis response to serve as first responders to 911 and other emergency calls for service, as well as social disturbances. They also provide immediate support for people experiencing behavioral health and substance use crises, as well as conduct wellness checks, help people with housing needs, and a range of other mental health-related support. Once advocated largely by health professionals, grassroots activists, and community members, community responder programs have emerged as an effective way to support people in need and safely reduce their interactions with the criminal justice system.

“Expanding First Response: A Toolkit for Community Responder Programs” features an array of resources to help local communities and states looking to establish or sustain community responder programs. Informed by leaders who have offered key insight into the critical details to their success, the toolkit also includes information on how to implement a responder program as part of a comprehensive crisis system—a goal that both the CSG Justice Center and Vital Strategies share. “The proliferation of community responder programs throughout the country is an encouraging pivot from decades of failed criminalization toward support and resources for people with complex health

and social needs, including overdose,” said Dionna King, program manager at Vital Strategies. “The CSG Justice Center’s toolkit shares expertise from around the country and is an invaluable resource for jurisdictions and community-based organizations that are considering more effective and humane responses to drug use and mental health issues.”

As existing programs across the U.S. prove to be successful, they are helping to expand first response efforts by showing how community responder programs can improve outcomes for people in crisis. Drawing on the experience of these emerging models, the toolkit presents key issues that are crucial to the success of any program. It will be updated regularly with program highlights and additional resources for the field. Each section includes

- A snapshot of the issue,
- Important considerations for successful implementation, and
- Essential resources, which may include practical strategies, field-based examples, instructive videos, and more.

Used together, these resources can help jurisdictions reimagine public safety and focus on expanding first response efforts for improving health outcomes, strengthening connections to services, and reducing unnecessary police involvement.

“While many community responder programs are relatively new, the concept of using health professionals and staff trained in crisis response to assist and connect people to support services has been around for decades,” said Sarah Wurzburg, program director for Behavioral Health at the CSG Justice Center. “We hope the toolkit gives other jurisdictions the resources they need to begin, expand, or sustain their own programs.”

View the new resource: [Expanding First Response: A Toolkit for Community Responder Programs](#)



Advanced CIT Training Conference

This year's Advanced CIT Training Conference will be held in-person on **Wednesday, April 6th** at the Columbus Police Academy (1000 N Hague Ave, Columbus, OH 43204).

The deadline to register for the conference is end of day Monday, March 28th.

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Advanced Training Conference is jointly presented by the National Alliance on Mental Ill 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:

- Two presentations from Dr. Amy Watson, Ph.D., former Board president of CIT International: a workshop on *CIT Coordination in a Rapidly Changing Environment* and an afternoon plenary on *Research on CIT: What the Evidence Tells Us*.
- Deputy Chief Stobart and Major Thompson, of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, will present *Stress Management in a Correctional Setting Through Biophilic Design* providing an overview of the new Franklin County jail, suggestions for changes to make in existing facilities, and structural and design changes that can benefit inmates and staff.
- Dr. John Corrigan, Ph.D., of the Ohio Brain Injury Program will provide a workshop designed for Corrections on *What if There's a Brain Injury?*
- *Sequencing of CIT Training Courses* will be presented by Jeff Futo, Kent State University Police and CJ CCoE Law Enforcement Liaison, and Chris Bowling, Ret. Commander of the Columbus Division of Police.
- The 2022 Ohio CIT Awards will be presented by Ret. Justice Evelyn Stratton and OhioMHAS Director Lori Criss.

Additional presentations include:

- *Children of Trauma: The Impacts of Trauma on the Brain and Development* – Dr. Mary McCracken and NiCole Thomas, LPCC-S from Children's Advantage
- *Mobile Crisis Response for Rural Communities* - Melanie White, Executive Director of NAMI of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot & Ret. Chief David Olds
- And more!

To register, [click here](#).



CRIMINAL JUSTICE
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Crisis Intervention Team Public Safety Telecommunicators Training of Trainers

May 19, 2022 from 8:00AM – 5:00PM at The Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy
(740 E 17th Ave Columbus, OH 43211)

The goal of this course is to enable local CIT programs to provide specialized training to public safety telecommunicators and by doing so increase the number of CIT communities in Ohio who are providing specialized training to public safety telecommunicators. This course will provide CIT trainers with the tools, materials, and framework needed to facilitate a CIT training for public safety telecommunicators in their community.

The course is designed for trainers actively engaged in the delivery of their local CIT training and is presented free of charge.

Space is limited. To register for the training, please email Ashley Eads @ aeads@neomed.edu with the following information:

1. Name
2. Title
3. Agency
4. County
5. Email Address
6. Please provide the year you completed CIT training
7. What CIT program are you providing training for?

Ohio CIT Coordinator Training Course

June 9, 2022 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.

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.

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



Upcoming CIT Courses

- Cuyahoga County – Cleveland Division of Police April 4-8, 2022
- Miami, Darke and Shelby Counties April 11-14, 2022
- Cuyahoga County April 11-15, 2022
- Cuyahoga County April 25-29, 2022
- Montgomery County Sheriff's Office April 25-29, 2022
- Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot, Erie, Ottawa & Huron Counties April 28, May 5, 12, 19, & 26, 2022
- Richland County May 2-6, 2022
- Washington County May 2-6, 2022
- Cuyahoga County May 9-13, 2022
- Hamilton County May 9-13, 2022
- Franklin County May 16-20, 2022
- Summit County May 22-26, 2022
- Cuyahoga County May 23-27, 2022
- Cuyahoga County June 13-17, 2022
- Cuyahoga County June 27-July 1, 2022

Please advise Ashley Eads @ aeads@neomed.edu of your planned CIT Courses for 2022 and send any completed courses with photos to be featured in our newsletter!



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 29-31, 2022 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For more information and to register, visit

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

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

A promotional banner for the 2022 CIT International Conference. The background is a night-time photograph of the Pittsburgh skyline, featuring the city's bridges and illuminated skyscrapers reflected in the water. In the top left corner is the logo for the International Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), which consists of a circular emblem with the letters 'CIT' in a stylized font, surrounded by the words 'INTERNATIONAL' and 'CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM'. The main text of the banner reads 'Coming Together Building Bridges' in a large, bold, yellow font, with a large ampersand symbol between the two phrases. Below this, 'Pittsburgh, PA' is written in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the banner, a dark blue horizontal bar contains the text '2022 CIT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE' and 'August 29 – August 31, 2022' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**Coming Together
&
Building Bridges**

Pittsburgh, PA

2022 CIT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
August 29 – August 31, 2022



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