



OHIO CIT NEWS

Summer 2022

Celebrating and Coming Back Together: The 2022 Ohio CIT Advanced Training Conference

On April 6, 2022, over 150 CIT partners from across Ohio came back together at the Columbus Police Academy for the Ohio CIT Advanced Training Conference. More than 30 Ohio CIT Programs representing 38 counties had representatives attend. Attendees came from a diversity of law enforcement agencies, mental health and recovery boards, mental health agencies, corrections, probation, substance use and addiction treatment, college campus police and security departments, K-12 school system, hospitals, NAMI affiliates, persons with lived experience, peer supports/advocates, communication centers and more. With it being over two years since the last in-person Ohio CIT conference, CIT partners were excited to see each other in person and celebrate the hard work and dedication of their colleagues and peers.

After opening remarks from Ruth Simera, Executive Director of the Coordinating Centers of Excellence at the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), Steve Click, Director of First Responder Wellness with the Ohio Department of Public Safety, provided the keynote address. Steve focused on describing the wellness needs of a variety of first responders and highlighted the work that Ohio, and his office specifically, are doing to help agencies and communities address the wellness and self-care needs of their first responders. The morning breakout session included *CIT Coordination in a Rapidly Changing Environment* (Dr. Amy Watson, Ph.D.), *Stress Management in a Correctional Setting Through Biophilic Design* (Chief Stobart, Major Thompson and David Bostwick), and *Exploring the Utilization of Crisis Hotlines/Warm Lines Panel Discussion* (Paul Dages, Officer Jeff Futo, Chief Pettrey, and Officer Kyser).

Lois Hochstetler, MSW, LISW-S, Assistant Director of OhioMHAS and Retired Justice Evelyn Stratton presented the 2022 Ohio CIT Awards. This year, 10 individuals were recognized for their incredible contributions to CIT in Ohio. Read more about the Ohio CIT Award winners and nominees on page [2](#).

After lunch, Dr. Watson presented her Plenary *Research on CIT: What the Evidence Tells Us*. The afternoon breakout session included *Sequencing CIT Training Courses* (Officer Jeff Futo and Retired Commander Chris Bowling), *Mobile Crisis Response for Rural Communities* (Melanie White and Retired Chief David Olds), *What if There's a Brain Injury?* (Dr. John Corrigan, Ph.D.), and *A Family's Lived Experience Perspective* (Evan Curtin and Peg Stephens).

Interested in the materials from any of these presentations? You can access them online at: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/f21ibkaliayju7qvq44jv/h?dl=0&rlkey=5tj7qfjy0q8b8d6g3f0075bmz>

This event was held in collaboration between the Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence at NEOMED, OhioMHAS, and NAMI Ohio.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE
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of EXCELLENCE
A NEOMED CCCE



2022 Ohio CIT Award Winners

CIT Corrections Professional of the Year

Jen Parker, Probation Officer and Specialized Docket Coordinator - Lorain County Adult Probation Department



CIT Patrol Officer of the Year

Allan "AJ" Linscott, Detective – Marietta Police Department



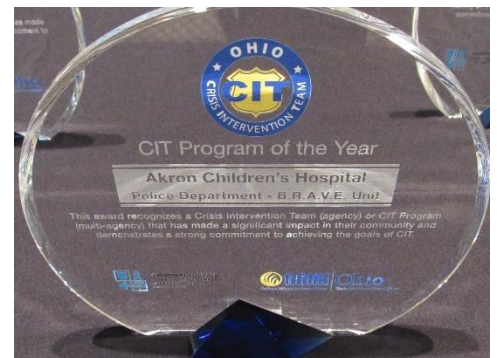
CIT Program of the Year

Akron Children's Hospital Police Department
B.R.A.V.E. Unit



Evelyn Lundberg Stratton CIT Champion of the Year

Mircea Handru, MBA, Executive Director – Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties



2022 Ohio CIT Award Winners

Health Professional of the Year

Linda Sistrunk, MS, BSW, Director of Behavioral Health –
Memorial Health System



Law Enforcement Administrator of the Year

Sheriff Rob Streck –
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

Michael S. Woody CIT Coordinator of the Year

Gina Greenhalgh - Summit County ADM Board
Officer Ralph Stover - Tallmadge Police Department & Summit County
ADM Board



Person with Lived Experience of the Year

Daniel Rodgers –
Lucas County CIT Program

Public Safety Telecommunications Professional of the Year

Josette Colwell –
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office



2022 Ohio CIT Award Nominees



Susanne Cox, Deputy - Franklin County Sheriff's Office

"Her ability to recognize and respond to individuals in crisis is a true gift. She is always thinking of others and possesses an amazing ability to come up with new and creative ways to help people in need."

Sergeant Jennifer Chiles, Division of Vandalia Police

"Sergeant Chiles believes in the principals of this great program and is willing by all means necessary to be a vessel amongst the law enforcement community to encourage her fellow brothers and sisters to engage and implement this training into their everyday "being"."

Officer Charles Leonardi, Cleveland Division of Police, Cleveland Co-Responder Team

"If we had more officers like P.O. Leonardi, the world would be a better place."

Officer J. Mark Perry, Mansfield Police Department

"He cares for the people in our community who are hurting and does his best to help people get the resources and support around them to start on the road to a healthy life."

Officer Shawn Lutz, Columbus Division of Police

"Officer Shawn Lutz has demonstrated an unparalleled level of compassion and dedication to the goals of CIT. He is a huge benefit to the citizens of Columbus and all those who live with mental illness/behavioral health issues."

Corporal Levi Freeman, Pickaway County Sheriff's Office

"Corporal Levi Freeman has been recognized by his peers, his superiors, and community stakeholders as being a law enforcement officer that goes above and beyond the call of duty. Our community is a better place because of Corporal Freeman"

Reginald A. Wilkinson Corrections Training Academy, New Employee Orientation Curriculum Development

"The desired outcome of this new program is to give new hires an awareness of agency goals, provide employees with tools to resource when intervening with a person in crisis, and to create a safer environment for staff, offenders and the citizens of Ohio."

2022 Ohio CIT Award Nominees



Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, CIT Program

"The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office CIT initiative has been vital in helping individuals in our community who felt isolated from friends, family and service providers secondary to the pandemic."

Dr. Victoria Kelly, M.D., Assistant Professor and General Psychiatry Residence Program Director, University of Toledo College of Medicine

"Dr. Kelly is a constant promoter of our CIT Program and is a tireless champion for individuals who have a mental illness who come in contact with law enforcement. She is constantly educating people in the medical community about the benefits of our program and how CIT can lead to safer outcomes for individuals in crisis and police officers."

Chief Joe Freyhof, Village of Russells Point Police Department

"Joe is a perfect example of a road-patrol chief in rural Ohio who embodies CIT and uses his training to effectively know and work with his entire community."

Officer Josh Bartholomew, Streetsboro Police Department

"As well as being an outstanding County Coordinator, Officer Bartholomew is an exemplary CIT officer. He is a model for all police officers of how to successfully help a person who is having a mental health crisis."

Amanda Shaw, Program Director - MHA of Northern Kentucky and Southwest Ohio

"Through her boundless energy, compassion, and dedication, Amanda Shaw has created a culture of learning, sharing, and understanding that will ultimately improve outcomes for all."

Dr. David Malawista, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist and Reserve Commander, Athens Police Department

"As CIT Coordinator for Athens, Hocking, and Vinton counties, Dr. Malawista provided a vital role in training 401 CIT program graduates within our three counties and an additional 34 from other counties and states."

Adam Webb, Recovery Support Specialist - TriHealth

"Adam is just such an amazing person and advocate for our community and the population we work with. He goes over and beyond with whoever he works with. He shows Compassion, Kindness, Love, Respect, Integrity, and Generosity."

2022 Ohio CIT Award Nominees



Jennifer Broderick, Richland County

“Jennifer is an amazing woman who has shared her journey and helped hundreds of persons know and understand more about mental illness and how they can help others on their way to recovery. Jennifer also works hard at ending the stigma of mental illness.”

Jonathan Epstein, Volunteer - NAMI of Greater Cleveland

“He is an open book and no question from an officer on how best to interact with individuals with mental illness is too direct or too personal to elicit a heartfelt and helpful response.”

Tina Anderson, Communications Supervisor; CIT NWO

“Tina Anderson exemplifies the attributes of a dispatcher who embodies the CIT principles. She goes out of her way to think about the mental health of others in the community as well as her own colleagues.”

Jared Watson, Sergeant; CIT NWO

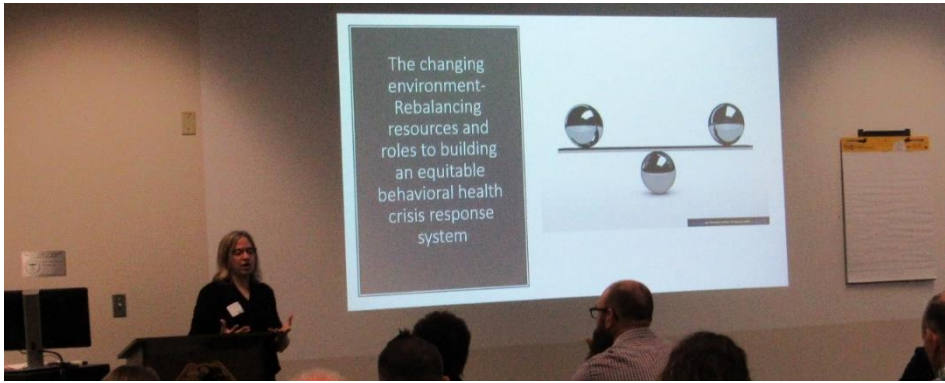
“Sgt. Watson has been a major contributor to our CIT Program for many years. He has demonstrated an outstanding ability to safely resolve very difficult incidents and divert persons in crisis away from the criminal justice system.”

All award nominees were presented with a certificate of recognition which stated:

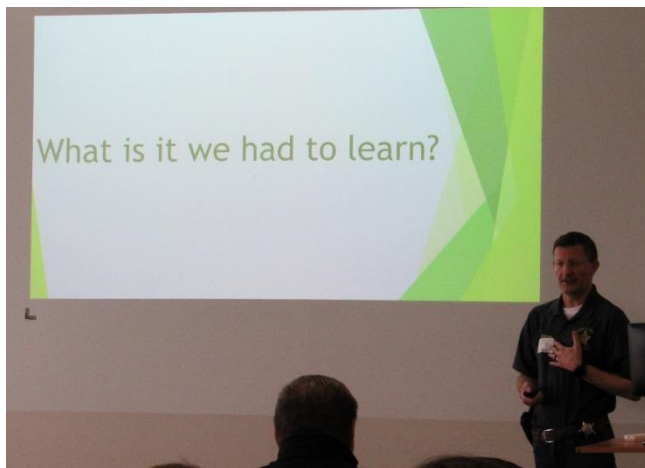
As a nominee for an Ohio Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Award, you join an elite group of professionals that demonstrate exemplary work and service towards CIT in your community. CIT does not exist without the hard work, dedication, and commitment that you have shown. Your efforts to support this program in your community are truly outstanding. CIT can only thrive with the incredible endeavors of individuals such as you.

We thank you and honor your personal efforts to support Ohio CIT Programs.

2022 Ohio Advanced CIT Conference



AM Track 1 (Coordinator): CIT Coordination in a Rapidly Changing Environment
Dr. Amy Watson, Ph.D.



AM Track 3 (Corrections): Stress Management in a Correctional Setting Through Biophilic Design
Chief Stobart and Major Thompson, Franklin County Sheriff's Office
David Bostwick, Justice Consultant, Architecture and Engineering Firm HDR

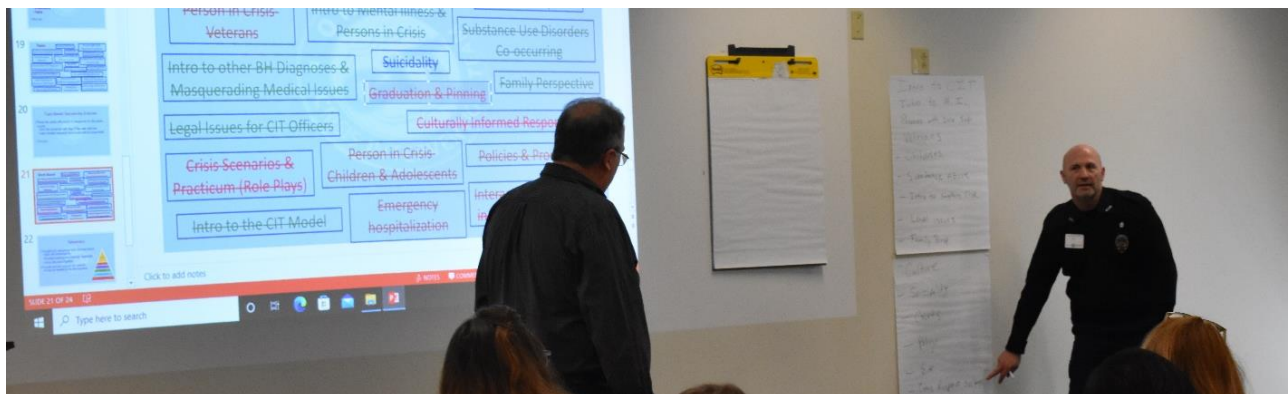


2022 Ohio Advanced CIT Conference

AM Track 4 (Public Safety Telecommunicators):
Exploring the Utilization of Crisis Hotlines/ Warm Lines Panel
Paul Dages, Townhall II
Officer Jeff Futo – Kent State University Police Services & Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence
Chief Beverly Pettrey and Officer Aaron Kyser – Cleveland State University

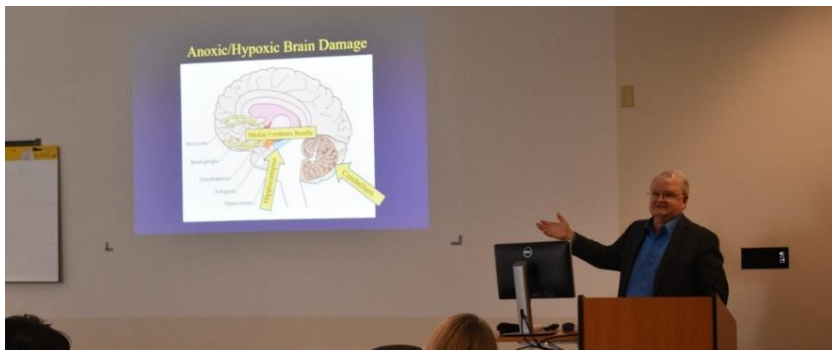


PM Track 1 (Coordinator): Sequencing CIT Training Courses
Officer Jeff Futo – Kent State University Police Services & Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence
Ret. Commander Chris Bowling – Columbus Division of Police



2022 Ohio Advanced CIT Conference

PM Track 2 (Law Enforcement): Mobile Crisis Response
for Rural Communities
Ret. Chief David Olds, NAMI of Seneca, Sandusky &
Wyandot Counties



PM Track 3 (Corrections): "What if There's
a Brain Injury"
Dr. John D. Corrigan, Ph.D.
Ohio Brain Injury Program

Track 4 (Public Safety Telecommunicators): "A
Family's Lived Experience Perspective"
Evan Curtin and Peg Stephens



Recent Ohio CIT Course Graduates

Mahoning County Completed CIT Patrol Officer Training Course April 1, 2022



The Columbiana County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board Completed a CIT Patrol Officer Training Course April 27-29, 2022.



The Medina County CIT Awards were held on Monday, April 11, 2022. Congratulations to Wadsworth Police Department on their CIT Agency of the Year Award!



In Case You Missed It...

The CJ CCoE hosted five Technical Assistance Sessions so far in 2022. Listed below are the links to recordings of those sessions. You can also access the links on the CJ CCoE webpage at:

<https://www.neomed.edu/cjccoe/cit/other-technical-assistance/>.

- [Youth Respite Crisis Services \(April 2022\)](#)
- [Community Ownership: Engaging and Securing Commitment from Leaders \(May 2022\)](#)
- [Jail Reentry \(May 2022\)](#)

Upcoming Trainings and Events

Technical Assistance Sessions

2022 CIT Core Elements

In September 2004, the Ohio CIT Coordinators Committee in conjunction with the Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence (CJ CCoE) developed the *Expert Consensus Document: Core Elements for Effective Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Programs*. The CJ CCoE, along with a group of Ohio partners and stakeholders, recently completed an update and revision to the core elements document.

Building upon program and training elements within the CIT core elements, the updated version provides guidelines, standards, and common terminologies to assist local CIT programs with fulfilling core elements. The new 2022 Core Elements of Ohio Crisis Intervention Team Programs is attached and can be found [here](#).

A Technical Assistance Session will be held on June 23rd from 10:00AM-11:00AM. To attend the Core Elements Technical Assistance Session, visit

<https://neomed.zoom.us/j/96648546730?pwd=Z1ZjTk5LM0lBT3NtOE9qZUNGRld3Zz09>

Agitated Chaotic Events: CIT Program Guidance and Materials

During the Spring and Summer of 2021, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence (CJ CCoE) was contacted by concerned community partners about recent publicity and position papers from the medical community regarding "excited delirium." The concerns focused on how law enforcement and Crisis Intervention Teams (CITs) across Ohio should educate officers on patrol and their partners to respond appropriately to this phenomenon. Over the past 10 months, the CJ CCoE has collaborated with a group of diverse partners from law enforcement, mental health, advocacy, and emergency medical services to create guidance and documents to assist CIT Programs in addressing this issue. The materials will be sent to CIT Coordinators.

A Technical Assistance Session will be held on June 30th from 12:30PM-1:30PM. To attend the Agitated Chaotic Events Technical Assistance Session, visit

<https://neomed.zoom.us/j/95575980602?pwd=eU1Gc2xDbkhpYWpvUzVxWVZZdmsxUT09>

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 – CIT Refresher Training	July 7, 2022
Cuyahoga County	July 11-15, 2022
Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot, Erie, Ottawa, and Huron Counties	July 18-22, 2022
Franklin County	July 18-22, 2022
Cuyahoga County – CIT PST Training	July 19, 2022
Cuyahoga County	July 25-29, 2022
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	July 25-29, 2022
Cuyahoga County – CIT Refresher Training	August 4, 2022
Cuyahoga County	August 8-12, 2022
Montgomery County S.O. – CIT PST Training	August 11, 2022
Franklin County	August 15-19, 2022
Cuyahoga County – CIT PST Training	August 16, 2022
Cuyahoga County	August 22-26, 2022
Cuyahoga County – CIT Refresher Training	September 8, 2022
Cuyahoga County	September 12-16, 2022
Hamilton County	September 12-16, 2022
Cuyahoga County – CIT PST Training	September 20, 2022
Cuyahoga County	September 19-23, 2022
Cuyahoga County	September 26-30, 2022

Please visit <https://www.neomed.edu/cjccoe/cit/training-calendar> for a full list of trainings.

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

Allen/Auglaize/Hardin Rick Skilliter rskilliter@pvff.org	Geauga Brian Ayer AyerB@Ravenwoodmhc.org	Portage John Garrity john@mental-health-recovery.org Josh Bartholomew jbartholomew@streetsboropolice.com
Athens/Hocking/Vinton Sherri Tyree sherri@ahv317.co.athens.oh.us Stephen Noftz noftzs@ohio.edu ; Stephen.Noftz@ohiohealth.com	Hamilton Amanda Shaw ashaw@mhankyswoh.org	Preble Whitney Loftis Whitney.loftis@pcmhrb.org
Belmont/Harrison/Monroe Patty Allen patriciaa@bhmbboard.org Yolanda Burger Yolanda.burger@colemanservices.org	Hancock Sgt. Dan Harmon Ptl.harmon@gmail.com	Richland Mary Kay Pierce families@namirc.org
Butler Rhonda Benson rbenson@nami-bc.org	Lake Julie Kalina-Hammond jhammond@crossroads-lake.org Joe Parkin jparkin@crossroadshealth.org	Ross/Pike/Fayette/Highland/Pickaway (Paint Valley) Melanie Swisher mswiper@pvadamh.org
Champaign/Logan Adam Sorensen asorensen@mhdas.org	Licking/Knox Tara Schultz tschultz@mhrk.org	Scioto/Lawrence/Adams Cyndy Bell c.bell@shawneemhc.org
Clark/Greene/Madison Adam Kempf adam@mhrb.org	Lorain Arielle Edwards aedwards@lcmhb.org	Northwest Ohio CIT Program (Seneca/Sandusky/Wyandot/Ottawa/Huron/Erie) Melanie White mawhite@namissw.org David Olds davidolds@hotmail.com
Clermont Lee Ann Watson lwatson@ccmhrb.org Chad Lutson clutson@union-township.oh.us	Lucas Robert Kasprzak rkasprzak@lcmhrsb.oh.gov	Stark Erin Ivers Erin.ivers@starkmhar.org CJ Stantz 146@starksheriff.org
Columbiana Marcy Patton mpatton@ccmhrsb.org Richard Whitfield rwhitfield@columbianaohio.gov	Mahoning Michelle Werth Michelle.Werth@mahoningcountyoh.gov Jerry Fulmer sgtfulmer@youngstownohio.gov	Summit Doug Smith DougSmith@admboard.org Ralph Stover rstover@tallmadge-ohio.org
Crawford/Marion Mark Light Lightcin2020@gmail.com	Medina Gail Houk ghouk@alternativepaths.org	Trumbull John Myers jmyers@trumbullmhrb.org Katie Cretella kcretella@trumbullmhrb.org
Cuyahoga Carole Ballard ballard@adamhsc.org	Mercer/Paulding/Van Wert Gery Thobe Gery.thobe@mercercountysheriff.org Alicia Bruce brucea@bright.net	Tuscarawas/Carroll Jenna M. Kanter-Mesa Vasquez kanter-mesavasquez@co.tuscarawas.oh.us
Defiance/Fulton/Henry/Williams Rob Giesige rob@fourcountynamhs.com Bethany Shirkey bethany@fourcountynamhs.com	Miami/Darke/Shelby (Tri-County) Beth Adkins adkinsb@tcbmds.org Brad Reed reedb@tcbmds.org	Union Matt Henry MHenry@co.union.oh.us Morgan Brown mbrown@co.union.oh.us
Delaware/Morrow Rhianna Mattix rmattix@dmmhrsb.org	Montgomery James Hardin James.hardin@daytonohio.gov Kimberly Farrier kfarrier@mcadamhs.org	Warren/Clinton Wally Stacy wstacy@clearcreektownship.com
Fairfield Maureen Muth Keller mmuthkeller@ohiopps.org Toni Ashton tashton@ohiopps.org	Muskingum/Coshocton/Noble/Perry/Guernsey/Morgan Jamie McGrew jamiem@mhrs.org	Washington A.J. Linscott allanlinscott@mariettaoh.net
Franklin Meg Griffing mgriffing@adamhfranklin.org Melissa McFadden mmcfadden@columbuspolice.org	ODRC Kenneth Adkins Kenneth.adkins@odrc.state.oh.us Gail DeWolf Gail.dewolf@odrc.state.oh.us	Wayne/Holmes Helen Walkerly hwalkerly@namiwayneholmes.org
Gallia/Jackson/Meigs Amanda Davis Amanda.davis@hopewellhealth.org	OSHP Molly Harris mjharris@dps.ohio.gov	Wood Jessica Schmitt-Hartman JessicaS@namiwoodcounty.org

In Grateful Memory

Lisa Marie Griffin, Advocate
NAMI Ohio, NAMI Summit County, NAMI Greater Cleveland,
and other NAMI Ohio affiliates.



Cayla Fortman, Coordinator
Executive Director of Focus: Recovery and Wellness Community,
Hancock County

Cathy Krieg, Assistant Director of Special Populations
Crisis Services and Diagnostic Services at Child Focus



Job Opening!

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence (CJ CCoE) is currently searching for a new CIT Program Coordinator. The CIT Program Coordinator is a full-time, Bachelor's level position in the Department of Psychiatry at NEOMED. This position coordinates the successful completion of deliverables, activities, and initiatives in the Ohio CIT Support and Expansion Project and involves both programmatic and administrative duties. The CIT Program Coordinator provides coordination and management of the Ohio CIT Support and Expansion Project, communication with our key partners (including staff, consultants, and sub-contractors), and assists the Director of the CJ CCoE with CIT related projects and initiatives. They will work closely with all the staff of the CJ CCoE.

To read the full job description and to submit an application, please visit:

<https://neomed.peopleadmin.com/postings/3213>

Please share this job posting with anyone that you feel may be interested in the position.

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.



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