

**2018 Statewide Crisis Intervention Team Meeting**  
**Days Inn, State College, PA**  
**March 20, 2018**

*Session Descriptions*

***The State of CIT in Pennsylvania***

**Moderator:**

- Tracy Small, Centre County CIT Coordinator

This will be an opportunity for informal and round table discussions that will allow attendees to share best practices and challenges with the implementation of CIT programs.

***How Being Trauma Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses***

**Presenter:**

- Jennifer Lopez, B.A., Deputy Chief Chester County Adult Probation Parole, and Pretrial Services

Although prevalence estimates vary, there is consensus that high percentages of justice-involved women and men have experienced serious trauma throughout their lifetime. The reverberating effects of traumatic experiences can challenge a person's capacity for recovery and pose significant barriers to accessing services, often resulting in an increased risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

This workshop is an opportunity for courts, police, probation, parole and corrections to learn about the importance of a trauma-informed approach in the criminal justice system and to begin to apply trauma-informed responses in their work.

***Objectives:***

- Increase understanding of trauma;
- Create an awareness of the impact of trauma on behavior; and
- Develop trauma informed responses.

It will help criminal justice professionals:

- Increase everyone's safety;
- Decrease criminal recidivism;
- Help to avoid re-traumatizing individuals;
- Promote and support recovery of justice-involved individuals; and
- Help professionals better handle the daily stresses of trauma.

*This training was developed by SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation.*

## **How to effectively Incorporate the LBGTQIA+ Topic into CIT**

### **Presenters:**

- *Patty Poloka, MPO, Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, Employee Wellness & Resource Coordinator, Allegheny County CIT Coordinator*
- *Curtis Boyd, Officer, Port Authority Police Department, Lead Community Resource Officer, Allegheny County CIT Coordinator*

Police have gone from "NIGHT WATCHMEN" to high-level judgment and decision-making representatives of our local, state, and government law enforcement agencies. To exclude the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual/Ally (LBGTQIA+) topic from CIT training is to not have a comprehensive program. Police encounter members of this community in 9-1-1 calls, encounters with the homeless, providing protection for First Amendment demonstrations, as work peers, and personal or family lives. Education on this topic is timely, important, and critical to maintaining a CIT program adequately adapting to change.

**Audience:** All who Coordinate CIT (Law Enforcement, Mental Health, Advocates) and make decisions regarding updating CIT curriculum or those in collaboration with CIT Coordinators who would like to see this topic incorporated into your county CIT program.

### **Objectives:**

- Understand crisis elements of the LBGTQIA+ community which may lead to law enforcement encounters.
- Understand some crisis elements of the LBGTQIA+ community which may lead to law enforcement encounters.
- Take away a basic model/structure for an LBGTQIA+ panel to go beyond political correctness and into empathy.
- Gain knowledge about rates of homelessness in LBGTQIA+ youth and suicide rates among LBGTQIA+ youth.
- Recognize LBGTQIA+ in LE should not play a role in employment or cause challenges.

## **Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Training for Crisis Intervention Teams**

### **Presenter:**

- *Kate Hooven, MS, Autism Services, Education, Resources and Training (ASERT)*

From 2009 to 2014, the Pennsylvania Autism Census found that the number of Pennsylvanians with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) receiving services increased from nearly 20,000 individuals to over 55,000 individuals. The number of individuals with autism who had contact with the juvenile and criminal justice systems also has increased. The location, the circumstance and the outcomes are different in each case, but, there is an underlying theme in each incident—a call for training for law enforcement and justice system professionals on how to identify and interact with individuals with autism.

In 2014, The ASERT Collaborative Eastern Region conducted a survey of justice system professionals in PA regarding their knowledge of autism. This survey identified specific training needs for justice system professionals to improve their interactions with individuals with autism. This training will address those training needs in three areas:

- Statewide data from the PA Autism Census and the Statewide Autism Survey of Justice System Professionals.
- Clinical overview of Autism Spectrum Disorder including core deficits and Symptoms.
- How to practically apply information about Autism Spectrum Disorder when performing duties as a Crisis Intervention Team member.