2023 Statewide Crisis Intervention Team Symposium
Wyndham Garden State College
April 20, 2023

Session Descriptions

Building a Certified CIT Program

- *Dr. Jenna Mehnert Baker, MSW, Bureau Director for Policy, Planning, and Program Development within the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services at PA Department of Human Services*

The Commonwealth has prioritized the development of a crisis continuum of services. From the development of new regulations, funding rates and an investment in the development of walk-in centers; the crisis intervention landscape across the Commonwealth is dramatically changing. As the Policy Director for OMHSAS and a board member of CIT International, Dr. Mehnert Baker will provide an overview of the transformation of PA's crisis system including the role of law enforcement. Additionally, she will provide CIT programs with the guidance needed to implement the Crisis Intervention TEAM model in adherence to the best practice guidance and the Department of Justice's expectations.

Putting First Responders First

- *Detective Brian Wakefield, Ferguson Township Police Department*
- *Nicole Wolf, Lenape Valley Foundation*

Law enforcement and first responders carry a lot on their shoulders! They see and hear things that most individuals don't see and hear. These events can create cumulative stress and weigh heavy on any law enforcement officer or first responder. In this session, you will hear from representatives from the Bucks County **Fi**rst **R**esponder **S**upport **T**eam—***FiRST*** warmline, and the Centre County Badge To Badge program about their innovative peer support initiatives which help law enforcement and first responders address their own mental well-being.

Utilizing Tactically-Based Concepts During Field Encounters to Increase Personal Safety and Reduce Liability

- *Brian Peete, Director, Riley County Police Department, Kansas*

De-escalation starts with responders placing themselves in the best possible way to maximize their options. This workshop is geared toward all first responders, mental health professionals, and peers who work "in the field" answering elevated and dangerous calls for service and assistance. We will provide attendees with information on tactical-based concepts. These concepts will help increase survivability for both responders and the person in crisis, allowing for verbal de-escalation to start. As a result, personal and organizational liability reduces.

Virtual Reality: The Evolution of Bucks County CIT Scenario Training

- *Wendy Flanigan, Bucks County Department of Behavioral Health/Developmental Programs*
- *Nicole Wolf, Lenape Valley Foundation*

In this session, we will share how the CIT core element of scenario-based training has evolved over time. Currently, this includes the use of virtual reality technology as well as traditional improvisational role-plays.

Collecting CIT Data Via a Digital Platform

- *Tom Bender, Laurel Highlands Region Police CIT Program*
- *Dan Marguccio, Program Coordinator, Laurel Highlands Region Police CIT Program*

The Laurel Highlands CIT program has, with the assistance of a Software Developer, developed a Digital CIT data collection web-based form that can be downloaded to a phone, laptop, or desktop. The form is very easy to use, and the data collected is then automatically compiled in an Excel form and can be distributed via a Pie Chart and Bar format. Since switching to this new format, Departments and Officers have been more apt to send in the data rather than the old paper and email/fax which was time consuming.

Key Tactics of Building a Statistical Report Within Your CIT Program

- *Katherine Gruver, York County CIT Coordinator*
- *Dr. Carla Strassle, PhD, Professor of Psychology at York College of Pennsylvania*

Statistical knowledge helps you use the proper methods to collect the data, employ the correct analyses, and effectively present the results. Statistics is a crucial process behind how we make discoveries in mental health, make decisions based on data, and make predictions. Focus on CIT data sheets, pre/posttest, and overall annual report for stakeholders.

This session will focus on the data sharing and collecting which supports the four goals that are implemented with CIT. It will show measurable outcomes and how to show this information to stakeholders. It will help bring collaboration efforts together and work together to figure out solutions to barriers. Session objectives include:

- CIT Data sheet: What information to collect from fellow first responders when reporting a mental health crisis call. How to report on measures/outcomes of these reports.
- Pre/Post Test: The importance of gathering this information and how to produce a report with this information. How to validate your tool and see the measurable outcomes of the four goals of CIT.
- Annual statistical report: How to report on measurable outcomes with a report to stakeholders and how to provide recommendations to sustain or improve your program.