

CHARLOTTESVILLE AREA
CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM PROGRAM
THOMAS JEFFERSON AREA COMMUNITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD
750 HARRIS STREET, SUITE 207 CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22903
434/296-2441 EXT: 117 THOMASVH@OAR-JACC.ORG
THOMAS VON HEMERT, CIT COORDINATOR

Background of CIT

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is a well-documented and successful model of improving police interactions with people experiencing acute episodes of mental illness. The training is designed to educate and prepare police officers who come into contact with people in crisis, to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness and to respond effectively and appropriately to the individual. Because police officers are often the first responders in these incidents, it is essential that they understand how mental illnesses can alter people's behaviors and perceptions. The trained CIT Officer is skilled at recognizing and de-escalating crises involving people with acute episodes of mental illness, while bringing an element of understanding and compassion to these difficult situations. The goal of the CIT program is to reduce unnecessary restraint and incarceration of people with mental illness and to provide individuals with appropriate treatment in the community.

The Charlottesville CIT project began in 2005 with the support of an Initiative for Effective Nonprofits Grant from the United Way. The first 12 months were spent building consensus in the Charlottesville community to decide whether or not to bring a Crisis Intervention Team to the area. With overwhelming support within the community, we began the implementation phase of the project with a grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

The overarching objectives of this program are twofold and inter-related; to be completed by June 30, 2007.

- 1.) Specialized training to 25% of the patrol force (Charlottesville, Albemarle, and University of Virginia Police Departments) on how to effectively work with people exhibiting signs of acute mental illness and substance abuse will be provided during the first year of this grant.
- 2.) Formation of a local crisis intervention team task force, with representatives from law enforcement agencies, mental health service providers, local and regional jails, local and state community corrections programs, consumers and advocates, to design and implement a written protocol that governs the agencies' interactions in working with people experiencing acute episodes of mental illness and with people with mental illness who have found themselves in situation in which law enforcement has intervened.

Stakeholders of CIT in the Charlottesville Community:

The taskforce overseeing this project and grant includes a diverse group of people within our community (police chiefs, judges, jail administrative staff, mental health treatment/advocates/consumers, commonwealth and defense attorneys, and medical professionals).

The Need for CIT:

- There are 400 to 500 offenders with mental illness in Charlottesville/Albemarle area.
- 3,200 to 3,500 people in Virginia jails on any given day have a mental illness.
(Virginia Department of Correction)
- Inmates with mental illness regularly experience recidivism rates above 70 percent.
(National Institute of Corrections)
- Incarceration of offenders with mental illness often exacerbates the problem for two reasons. First, predatory inmates mistreat and take advantage of inmates with mental illness. Second, as with anyone who is taken advantage of, the experience is likely to cause a person with mental illness to increase symptoms, usually leading to an extended period of incarceration and added criminal charges. *Consensus Project Report*
- 1/3 of our regional state psychiatric hospital's (Western State Hospital) released forensic admissions are rearrested.

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT) TASKFORCE

JUDICAL

Hon. Bob Downer	Judge	Charlottesville District Court
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LAW ENFORCEMENT

Tim Longo	Police Chief	Charlottesville Police Department
Mike Gibson	Police Chief	University of Virginia Police Department
John Miller	Police Chief	Albemarle Police Department
Ed Robb	Sheriff	Albemarle Sheriff Department
Cornelia Johnson	Sheriff	Charlottesville Sheriff Department

JAIL

Col. Ronald Matthews	Superintendent	Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Jail
Juanita Morris	Director of Health Services	Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Jail
David Livesay	Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner	Charlottesville-Albemarle Regional Jail

LEGAL

Jim Hingeley	Public Defender	Office of the Public Defender
Dave Chapman	Commonwealth Attorney	Charlottesville Commonwealth Attorney Office
Alex Gulotta	Director	Legal Aid Justice Center
Albie LaFave	Sentencing Advocate	Office of the Public Defender
Lacey Parker	Asst Public Defender	Office of the Public Defender
Joe Platania,	Assistant Commonwealth Attorney	Charlottesville Commonwealth Attorney Office
Steve Rosenfield	Attorney	Community Criminal Justice Board Chair

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES

Jenny Oliver	Director	Mental Health America - Charlottesville
Will Gallik	Executive Director	On Our Own of Charlottesville
Alison Hymes	Mental Health Planning Council	On Our Own
Elizabeth Breeden	Board Member	Mental Health Association
Cynthia Power	Mental Health Consumer / Board Member	Mental Health Association

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA - HEALTH SYSTEM

Dr. Ed Kantor,	Director, Consult-Liaison,	UVA Department of Psychiatry
Dr. Jeff Raynor	Forensic Psychiatry Fellow,	UVA Department of Psychiatric Medicine
Mike Ralph, RN	Manager – Psychiatric Emergency Center	UVA Emergency Department

MENTAL HEALTH AGENCIES

Lori Wood	Emergency Services	Region Ten CSB
Buzz Barnett	Emergency Services Director	Region Ten CSB
Reed Banks	Mental Health Services	Region Ten CSB
Marilyn Minrath	Clinical Psychologist	Private Business
Dr. Mary Clare Smith	Medical Director	Western State Hospital
Paul "Nick" Hundley, Ph.D	Clinical Director	Western State Hospital

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES

Pat Smith	Director	OAR-Jefferson Area Community Correction
Neal Goodloe	Chief Probation Officer	District 9 Probation & Parole
Fahy Mullaney	Facilitator	Pacesetter Group
Cheryl Thompson	Chief Magistrate	Magistrate Office of the 16 th Court District
Rudi Schuster	Program Coordinator	Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

PROJECT EVALUATORS

Nathan Veldhuis	Attorney / CIT Evaluator	UVA Law School Mental Health Law Clinic
Reid Bailey	Professor	UVA School of Engineering –
Michael Smith	Executive Director	UVA School of Engineering –
		Accelerated Masters Project

STAFF

Thomas von Hemert	CIT Coordinator	Thomas Jefferson Area Community Criminal Justice Board
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Crisis Intervention Team (CIT): a community meeting

*Improving Police Interactions
with People with Mental Illness*

Speakers: Maj. Sam Cochran Memphis CIT Founder
Dr. Randy DuPont Memphis CIT Evaluator

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Time	Monday, January 22, 2007 4.30 pm - 6.30 pm
Place	Albemarle County Office Building, Conference Room A 1600 5 th Street Extended Charlottesville, VA 22902
Who Should Attend?	Sheriff and police officers, hospital and criminal justice administrators, mental health consumers and advocates, and concerned community leaders and citizens.
Why Attend?	This is an opportunity to learn about strategies used in Crisis Intervention Teams. Maj. Cochran and Dr. DuPont have helped create safer interactions between individuals with mental illness and law enforcement officers.
Sponsors	Charlottesville Area CIT Taskforce Thomas Jefferson Area Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB)
Cost	FREE , but RSVP to Thomas von Hemert, CIT Coordinator email: thomasvh@oar-jacc.org phone: 434.296.2441 ext. 117 snacks provided (sandwiches, coffee, water)