

## **Mecklenburg County Crisis Intervention Team**



### **A pre-booking Jail Diversion Program**

CIT is a community-based collaboration between law enforcement, mental health agencies, consumers and family members, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)-Charlotte, and Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC).

Law Enforcement Officers are frequently front-line responders to persons in crisis with a serious mental illness. In an effort to better prepare officers to respond to these individuals, a number of communities (more than 500 in the US) have developed a **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)** program. These initiatives are modeled after the parent program which began in 1988 in Memphis, Tennessee. At the end of 2017, Mecklenburg County had trained over 1300 sworn law enforcement officers.

### **The Three Components of CIT Programs:**

1. **Intensive training** - Police officers and other first responders receive up to 40 hours of training regarding mental illness, co-occurring disorders, and response strategies.
2. **Strong mental health partnerships** – Police and mobile crisis workers who respond to people in crisis seek viable options for linking individuals with mental health treatment in lieu of arrest.
3. **Significant mental health consumer and family involvement** - Consumer and family advocates are integrally involved in the design and implementation of local CIT programs.

**CIT** is a specialized law enforcement response to people in serious mental health crisis. Carefully selected volunteer patrol officers receive Crisis Intervention Team training in a 40-hour certification course where they learn:

- Recognizing signs of mental illness for persons in crisis
- Basic diagnosis and medication knowledge
- Verbal de-escalation skills
- Community resource information
- How CIT works and how it fits into each department's operations

### **CIT STEP-BY-STEP**

Family member or other person calls 911 for mental health crisis.

1. Patrol Officer dispatched; when mental health crisis is identified CIT officer is called to the scene.
2. CIT Officer assesses situation utilizing verbal de-escalation and other learned skills then determines best course of action; if more extensive mental health assessment is needed Mobile Crisis can be called to the scene.
3. Mental health consumer receives appropriate services while coordination with Criminal Justice System maintains accountability.

## 2019 CIT for Law Enforcement Training Dates

- February 18-22
- April 8-12
- June 24-28
- September 16-20
- November 4-8



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## Community Partners

[Atrium Healthcare](#)

[Cardinal Innovations](#)

[CIT Center at the University of Memphis](#)

[Hope Haven](#)

[Mecklenburg County CIT Video](#)

[Mental Health America](#)

[Monarch](#)

[NAMI CIT Center](#)

[Urban Ministries](#)

[Anuvia Prevention and Recovery](#)

[CIT International](#)

[CPCC](#)

[Innervision](#)

[Mecklenburg County Community Support Services](#)

[Mobile Crisis Team](#)

[NAMI Charlotte](#)

[Teen Health Connection](#)