

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

Research over the years has shown that the Crisis Intervention Team training model created in Memphis Tennessee in 1988 has saved numerous lives and reduced officer related injuries significantly. Skills like listening, displaying empathy, and knowledge about mental illness are taught in this week long 40-hour specialized program.

Local mental health professionals from Stewart Marchman Act Behavioral Healthcare, National Association for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), Volusia/Flagler Alliance for the Mentally Ill, family members and recipients of care, and attorneys expert in the mental health field teach these special classes. To create opportunities for officers to practice and perfect new skills, significant training time is spent on role playing real life situations or visiting with recipients of care. Officers learn about the nature of mental illness, the stigma and history of treatment, co-occurring disorders, the Baker Act, personality disorders, and become familiar with Volusia and Flagler Counties and national resources.

The CIT program is a community-based effort bringing first responders and community together for the common goals of safety, understanding and service to people with mental illness and their families.

Working Hand in Hand to Promote Safety & Understanding



**Community Partners
Making CIT Possible**

**Stewart Marchman Behavioral Healthcare
24 HOUR HOTLINE
Access Center (800) 539-4228**



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CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM & TRAINING



**Community Partners
Making CIT Possible**

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CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

**Working Hand
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Stewart Marchman Act Behavioral Healthcare is one of the community partners that make CIT possible, along with NAMI of Volusia/Flagler County and the Volusia/Flagler County Sheriffs Department. To date, over 600 officers representing 20 agencies have been CIT trained.

The Faculty:

The faculty, are members/staff of Stewart Marchman Act Behavioral Healthcare, Halifax Medical Center, NAMI, Public Defenders Office, the Seminole County Sheriffs Office and Volusia County Sheriffs Office.

Background of CIT and the Memphis Model:

Resulted from a shooting of a man with a mental illness in Memphis in 1988.

Inquiry recommended specialized training for officers to better handle mental illness crisis situations.

NAMI, the University of Tennessee and the Memphis Police Department developed a 40 hour curriculum.



***CIT ...
is not about
fame, for-
tune, nor glory, but rather,
one of honor and service.***

CIT is about reducing injuries resulting from this type of crisis call, reducing arrests and improving overall safety.

In our own community, according to the sheriffs' office, SWAT team calls have been significantly reduced as a direct result of CIT. Research findings conducted in Memphis and in other communities, which have followed the Memphis model, confirm those kinds of results.

CIT works and that is why a growing number of counties in Florida are adopting it, along with dozens of other communities nationwide. CIT is intended to enhance first responder skills and public safety.

The CIT Model has been instrumental in offering: Special trained officers to respond immediately to crisis calls.

Ongoing training of CIT officers at no expense to Volusia and Flagler Counties.

Establishments of partnerships of police, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Volusia and Flagler County mental health providers, and mental health consumers.

The Crisis Intervention Team program is a community effort joining both the first response agencies and the community together for common goals of safety, understanding, and service to the mentally ill and their families. It is to these goals the Memphis Police Department stands committed.

The CIT program provides an avenue for the development of community partnerships and the collabo-

ration of working together for community interest of service and care. CIT is about doing the right thing for the right reasons. CIT recognizes a special population that deserves special care, treatment, and service. *CIT is not about fame, fortune, nor glory, but rather, one of honor and service.*



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Making CIT Possible***

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