



### **Mission**

To serve as a catalyst for change in the criminal justice system by addressing common issues related to mental health/illness. The relationships that grow from these efforts will enhance the safety and well-being of both public servants and the communities they serve.

## **Creating a roadmap for change**

Since 1998, CABLE has brought the community together with criminal justice, law enforcement and mental health resources along with family members and persons with mental illness to address common issues. Among its accomplishments, CABLE has:

- ⊕ Trained over 600 police officers, community mental health providers, parole, probation and correctional officers in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training to safely and humanely interact with persons in psychiatric crisis and connect them with needed services.
- ⊕ Hosted five annual continuing education CIT Symposia.
- ⊕ Co-authored article entitled "Successful Approaches with Emotionally Disturbed Persons" published in the October 2004 Issue of Law and Order Magazine.
- ⊕ Introduced police academy recruits and law enforcement professionals to the special needs of persons with mental illness, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and law enforcement assisted suicide (Suicide by Cop).
- ⊕ Authored article entitled "Suicide by Cop: The Ultimate Trap" published in the July/August 2001 issue of the FBI National Academy Magazine 2001.
- ⊕ Advocated for police departments' training in the use of less lethal weapons.
- ⊕ Participated with the Washington, D.C. based Criminal Justice Policy Foundation to discuss "Public Perceptions of Police Practices and Behavior," a research study conducted by the University of Connecticut.
- ⊕ Offered support services to World Trade Center recovery personnel at St. Paul's Chapel in New York City.
- ⊕ Provided state-of-the-art Peer Support and Critical Incident Stress Management Training to CT State Police and help them launch their "State Troopers Offering Peer Support" (STOPS) program.
- ⊕ Also initiated collaborative training and research opportunities with the Connecticut Criminal Law Foundation (CCLF), National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Police Policy Studies Council, Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), University of New Haven (UNH), Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), Department of Corrections (DOC) and Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Judicial Branch.



# In Review...



## Crisis Intervention Teams

- ⊕ Since 2004, CABLE has trained 600 police officers, public safety dispatchers, mental health providers, and special mental health probation and parole officers as a tool for jail diversion and to assist those who are re-entering the community.
- ⊕ CABLE has led workshops on the CT Crisis Intervention Team Model and Suicide by Cop to local and national audiences every year since 2006.

- ⊕ CABLE teamed with the National Alliance on Mental Illness and the Department of Corrections to offer a “Train the Trainer” curriculum for Department of Corrections custody and treatment staff that deal with inmates in psychiatric crisis.

## Peer Support Training

- ⊕ Depression and suicide are no strangers to the public safety profession. In fact, approximately six times as many police officers commit suicide each year than are feloniously killed in the line of duty.
- ⊕ CABLE has trained 70 CT troopers in peer support for the “State Trooper Offering Peer Support (STOPS)” program and has provided a refresher training in Critical Incident Stress Debriefings. The STOPS program helps troopers provide immediate, long-term support and referrals to peers in need.
- ⊕ CABLE plans to offer peer support training to federal and municipal departments in the near future.



## New Alliances



- ⊕ CABLE believes strongly in the importance of building relationships with institutions and advocacy groups across the state and the country. In addition to its alliances with the National Alliance on Mental Illness – CT and others, CABLE has forged a new alliance with Central Connecticut State University’s Institute for the Study of Crime and Justice and the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. CABLE and CCSU have conducting a study on the efficacy of CIT training and the use of CIT as a tool for jail diversion.
- ⊕ CABLE’s unique, interdisciplinary approach continues to make inroads in criminal justice education regarding mental illness, how it affects us as people, as a community and as a society. With a strong foundation built on mutual understanding and respect, this diverse group will be a powerful agent of change.

⊕ Mental illness touches all of us: our mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and friends. CABLE believes that we are all connected, no matter what our occupation or lot in life. The power of our educational programs comes from our shared stories. As we interweave the experiences of criminal justice and mental health professionals, family members and persons with mental illness we will continue to learn from each other while changing hearts and minds.

*"The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt." -- Frederick Buechner*