

CIT Connections

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It's all about partnerships

By Louise Pyers

Welcome to the first formal CIT newsletter created especially for Connecticut's Crisis Intervention Team Officers. It has been made possible through a grant from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services awarded to the Connecticut Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). As a result of this grant, NAMI-CT will partner with CABLE, Inc., CT's sole source CIT training and technical assistance provider to produce and distribute this newsletter to CIT officers and local NAMI affiliates.

The DMHAS Grant will also enable NAMI-CT to educate civilian groups about CIT in order to encourage and promote CIT partnerships between more police departments and their communities. NAMI will link interested

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Skill-building in Orlando

By Capt. Ken Edwards

The second annual National Crisis Intervention Team Conference was held this past September 25th through 27th in Orlando, Florida. As someone who attended both the first conference in Columbus, and this year's event, it was apparent that organizers had learned much from their previous effort. The variety, quantity, and quality of the presentations ensured that each time slot had something of interest, regardless of an attendee's discipline or role. If you are interested in looking at this year's program, it can still be viewed at <http://cit.fmhi.usf.edu/citintro.cfm>

Connecticut was well represented among the presenters. An exercise first done as part of CIT training by New London PD in 2000, has caught on around the country. "Hearing Voices that are Distressing", is probably the most popular and practical addition ever made to the original CIT curriculum. Lee-Ann Boatwright and Sharon Ciarlo, our friends from DMHAS, did a train the trainer workshop that more than filled the room. CIT training programs around the country have added this component because of ground broken here in Connecticut. Sharon and Lee-Ann also did a workshop on Verbal De-Escalation and Conflict Resolution.

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Upcoming CIT Training



The 40 hour CIT training will be offered at the following locations:

Silver Hill Hospital, New Canaan: April 23-27

Windsor Town Hall: May 14-18

Shepardson Community Center, Middlebury: June 11-15

CABLE is currently accepting applicants from departments committed to establishing and maintaining bona-fide Crisis Intervention Teams. Contact Capt. Kenneth Edwards or Louise Pyers at cable@cabweb.org or 203 848-0320.

Partnerships...

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Robert Correll, President of NAMI-CT, speaks to a group of officers in Hartford.

police departments with their law enforcement partners at CABLE.

The goal of this newsletter is to inform you about CIT trainings, expansion around the state, and to provide a forum for you to share your CIT experiences. To be successful, we need the input of local CIT officers who are willing to share their stories. Your

“Your input and feedback will provide the perspective of the law enforcement officer; a viewpoint and voice that is needed...”

input and feedback will provide the perspective of the law enforcement officer; a viewpoint and voice that is needed to make the information relevant to you and your fellow officers. We look forward to working with you and we thank you for your commitment to CIT.

Orlando...

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In addition to Lee-Ann and Sharon, Louise Pyers (CABLE & NAMI-CT) and I did a workshop on Suicide by Cop that was attended by 100+ people. We were joined by Chris Burke (New Haven & West Haven’s CIT Clinician) the next day for a presentation of the Connecticut Model, “CIT Plus.”

One of the interesting initiatives to come out of this year’s conference was the effort to form a national CIT organization. Although it is important that individual CIT programs are flexible enough to meet the needs of



A group of Connecticut attendees gathered for a photo.

“Next year’s conference is scheduled to be held in the birthplace of CIT, Memphis, TN”

their specific communities, we must remember to stay true to the Memphis model. A national organization can help do that. For more information on the National Organization go to www.cit.memphis.edu .

Connecticut was represented at the conference by Captain Steve Verelli (New Haven PD), CIT Clinician Christopher Burke (CABLE & Community Mental Health), Captain Lorie Tamaro, Sgt. John Jarvie and Officer Marty Garcia (West Haven PD), Lt. Robert Maxwell and Officer John Praelikas (Waterbury PD), Waterbury CIT Clinician

Ed Cole, (Waterbury Mental Health Authority), Captain Ken Edwards, Officer Anthony Nolan and Officer Richard Cable (New London PD); Sgt. Tammy Medonis and Officer Renee Legeyt (Windsor PD); Sgt. Ed Yergeau (Hartford PD); Brenda St. George (Capitol Region Mental Health); Hartford PD CIT Clinician Barry Skloletsky (Capitol Region Mental Health); Louise Pyers, CABLE & NAMI; Sharon Ciarlo and Lee-ann Boatwright, both from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Next year’s conference is scheduled to be held in the birthplace of CIT, Memphis, TN. When researching CIT for New London I traveled to Memphis. I must say that it is one of my favorite cities for food, music and hospitality. I’m sure the official program will be good as well. We will let you know when details become available. In the meantime start thinking about how you can fund your own trip there. Contact Louise Pyers or me for some ideas.

CIT E x p a n s i o n... in Connecticut

CIT has grown since the first Connecticut CIT Training in April, 2003. We now have bona-fide Law Enforcement Crisis Intervention Teams **with operating CIT policies** in: New London, West Haven, Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury, Norwich, Putnam, Plainfield, Willimantic, Groton City, Stamford, Windsor, ECSU, CCSU, Yale New Haven Hospital Protective Services. Departments beginning to establish CIT trainings but do not yet have operational policies are: Trumbull, Meriden, Wilton, Westport, University of New Haven, Yale University.



Soon to come on-board: Official requests for CIT training and implementation have come from the CT State Police, State Capitol Police, and Middlebury Police. Stay tuned!

Send us your CIT stories!

Help us to make this newsletter relevant and helpful to you and your fellow officers. Please send your stories of successful CIT encounters and partnership efforts with community providers to cable@cableweb.org.

Don't have time to write?

Call Louise at NAMI-CT [800 215-3021] to dictate your story over the phone. Your information will be written up and sent back to you to check for accuracy before it is published.

How to reach us:

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How can we reach you?

In order to keep you informed of upcoming trainings and events we need contact information that is accurate and up-to-date. We can send this newsletter either electronically or by regular mail. Please indicate your preference and provide us with the necessary contact information. Feel free to e-mail this information to cable@cableweb.org or mail it to CABLE, Inc., 67 School House Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492

Name: _____

Department: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Send information and updates: via e-mail via regular mail

Made possible by a grant from the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Working as partners to increase public safety by facilitating collaboration among law enforcement and mental health treatment systems and to improve access to effective treatment for people with mental illnesses.



CIT CONNECTIONS

"For knowledge itself is power." Francis Bacon

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