

National Alliance on Mental Illness of Connecticut
CT Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement, Inc.

CIT Connections

CIT Growing in Connecticut

To date, approximately 400 officers have been trained across the state. The following 23 Connecticut Police Departments now have Crisis Intervention Teams:

New London	West Haven	Norwich	Putnam	Plainfield
Willimantic	Groton City	Westport	Stamford	Waterbury
New Haven	Hartford	Windsor	Wilton	Canton
Simsbury	Middlebury	State Capitol	ECSU	CCSU
Yale University	Yale New Haven Hospital	Naugatuck Valley Community College		

23
Connecticut
Police
Departments
now have CIT

The State police have begun training troopers from Troops A and G. More troopers will be trained from around the state this fall.

NEXT CIT TRAINING

OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 2, 2007 MITCHELL COLLEGE, NEW LONDON
Call 203 848-0320 or e-mail CABLE at cable@cabweb.org for registration

Stamford officer cites CIT in incident outcome

Stamford police responded to a call about a man who had fired shots within an apartment complex. After a high speed car chase, during which an officer was almost run down, the suspect leapt from his vehicle and found himself backed against a wall at the train station. Sgt. Christopher Gioielli was

behind a parked car about a dozen feet from the suspect who was waving his gun in front of police and terrified citizens. With his weapon drawn, Sgt. Gioielli was ready to shoot the suspect who was challenging the police to shoot him. The man then turned the gun on himself and started his "countdown."

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Editor:
Louise C. Pyers, M.S.
CABLE, INC. & NAMI-CT

State Capitol Police put CIT to the test

“This is a good example of the power we have as police officers to make a difference in people’s lives...”

*Chief Michael Fallon
State Capitol Police*

State Capitol CIT officers recently used their new knowledge of the mental health system to help a state Senator who was threatened by a constituent with mental illness. Once notified of the threat, they were able to identify and contact the man’s case manager and supervisor to inform them of the threat. They contacted the local CIT department in the man’s community where a CIT clinician was dispatched to follow up to make sure the man had returned to treatment. Arrangements were also made so that his case manager would notify State

Capitol Police if the man was missing or not following his treatment recommendations in order to insure the safety of the Senator.

In a recent memo to his officers, Chief Michael Fallon stated, “This is a good example of the power we have as police officers to make a difference people’s lives. Not only are we providing the Senator with a heightened sense of security and protection by following through on Mr. _____ status, we are also ensuring that he gets the help he needs.”

CIT opened to Mental Health Probation Officers

10 newly hired mental health probation officers have received mental health awareness training from NAMI-CT and CIT training from CABLE

An increasing number of inmates incarcerated in Connecticut’s correctional facilities and individuals who become involved in the criminal justice system are being identified as having mental health disorders. Of those who are sentenced to probation or pre-trial supervision, these disorders present significant challenges to Court Support Services Division’s efforts to provide effective services. In order to address this issue, CSSD has embarked on a collaborative effort with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and the Department of Correction (DOC) to integrate community based treatment and supervision for these individuals.

The new program will provide for

enhanced supervision for sentenced clients with mental health issues, improved identification of pre-trial clients with such issues, and access to additional mental health treatment services.

To date, 10 newly hired mental health probation officers have received mental health awareness training provided by NAMI-CT as well as CABLE’s CIT training to prepare them for their caseloads.

The mental health officers will be sited in eight towns: Bridgeport, Hartford, Meriden/Middletown, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwich and Waterbury and they will work collaboratively on treatment teams with DMHAS providers and clinicians.

SAVE THE DATE

NAMI-CT
SUPPORT, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

Watch for Early
Registration Information
www.namict.org



Research, Results and Recovery

NAMI-CT Annual State Conference
Friday, November 2, 2007 CT Grand Hotel, Waterbury, CT

Keynote Speaker: Pamela Sklar, M.D., Ph.D

Center for Human Genetics Research, Massachusetts General Hospital,
Associate Professor of Psychiatry (Genetics) Harvard Medical School

Stamford officer....(continued from page 1)

With the gun no longer pointed at others, Sgt. Gioielli deployed his Taser, causing the suspect to drop his weapon. As he approached the suspect and grabbed the gun which was at his feet, the man told the Sergeant to kill him.

Sgt. Gioielli specifically cited his CIT training as essential to his analysis and response. When he heard the suspect repeatedly shout, "Shoot me! Shoot me! Go ahead, kill me!" and when he observed the suspect "count down" while pointing the pistol to his head, under his chin and then in his mouth, Sgt. Gioielli recognized that he was witnessing pre-death behavior of a potential suicide by cop. He had only moments to act.

Sgt. Gioielli opted to Taser the suspect for two reasons: (1) the suspect was pointing the pistol at this mouth, rather than at officers and bystanders



Sgt. Christopher Gioielli, Stamford PD

and (2) the Sergeant's position in relation to the suspect would have put others in the line of fire. Had the suspect taken the gun out of his mouth, he would have risked lethal force by the officers who faced him directly.

While the suspect was in serious emotional crisis at the time of the incident, he had no known history of serious mental illness. A bundle of heroin was found in his car.

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He had only moments to act..

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Support, Information and Advocacy for persons
with severe mental illness and their families

CABLE, Inc. www.cableweb.org
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Phone: 203 848-0320

Specialized training, research and support for law
enforcement professionals and their communities

Funding for CIT training, consultation and support to Police Departments, and CIT Connections
is provided by the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Ten Steps to Making Your High Risk Communications More Successful

The following suggestions are only to be used when officer safety or safety of bystanders allows.

By Dennis L. Conroy, Ph.D.

Retrieved from PoliceOne.com, 7/13/07

1. Personalize the interaction. Introduce yourself to become a person to the person at risk and make him/her feel as though he or she is seen as more than a job.
2. Ask for little favors and build on successes. Ask the person to step away from the bridge railing rather than to surrender immediately.
3. Respect the individual's spatial needs. Don't move in closer than they are comfortable with. Allow them this measure of control. It will then be easier to obtain control in other areas where it may be more important.
4. Take your time. The longer the situation lasts, the better your chance for a successful resolution. The crisis mode is intense and difficult for a person to maintain for long periods of time.
5. Maintain appropriate eye contact when possible. Don't stare but don't be reluctant to look at the individual. This will help you build a rapport.
6. Continue to restate your offers of assistance. The person in crisis may not hear or understand you the first time. The crisis mode may interfere with their ability to understand your commands.
7. Speak slowly. Work to slow the tempo of the situation. As you speak slower, there will be a tendency for the person's tempo to match yours.
8. Stay focused on the individual you are dealing with.
9. Treat the person in crisis with dignity and respect. Treat the individual as you would like to be treated if you were in his/her situation or as you would like one of your family members to be treated.
10. When you have resolved the situation successfully, continue to treat the individual as above. This is one of the main points they will remember and it will make your job easier the next time.