

Chief Michael J. Fallon Memorial CIT Leadership Award



Chief Michael J. Fallon was first and foremost a person dedicated to serving the public for almost 30 years of his life. He was a gentleman that cared about his family, his officers and anyone with whom he came into contact.

In 2005, as an Assistant Chief of the Hartford Police Department in charge of the Patrol Division, Chief Fallon was tasked with implementing the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Model. Within weeks, patrol officers and their clinical partners at Capitol Region Mental Health Center received the 40 hour CIT training and Chief Fallon had completed and implemented a full departmental CIT policy.

In 2006 he became Chief of the State Capitol Police and it wasn't long before CIT was in place at the Capitol. He made CIT his priority and to this day officers from both agencies continue to be sent to CIT training on an annual basis.

Chief Fallon spoke eloquently about CIT. He modeled a dedication to its philosophy by how he treated his officers and how he cared about people, especially people in emotional and psychiatric crisis. With that kind of example, it was easy for his officers to follow his lead.

Chief Fallon died on December 4, 2009 after battling cancer, he was 47. Those of us who knew and loved him miss his presence. Mike left behind an important legacy that was witnessed every day by his family, friends, and colleagues – a legacy that embraces modern day philosophies and demonstrates that police officers can genuinely show authority, strength, respect and compassion at the same time they protect and serve.

2013 Award Recipients

**Lt. Shaun McColgan,
Danbury Police Dept.**



We thank Lt. McColgan and Officer Bowman for their exemplary service to the mental health community and CIT. Their support of CIT and their compassion for those in psychiatric crisis have been a shining example for those that will follow in their footsteps. See other side for their stories.

**Officer Sue Bowman,
Windsor Police Dept.**



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Lt. Shaun McColgan is a 29 year veteran of law enforcement having served 6years in the NYPD and 23 years at the Danbury Police Department.

Lt. McColgan has been coordinator of the department's CIT program since its inception in 2009. The members of his team had this to say: "If it wasn't for him, we wouldn't have this team".... "He's puts his own time in to make this happen".... "He's very passionate about CIT and incorporates it into everything we do".... "He is dedicated to getting the job done for people in crisis."

Through his participation in his local Catchment Area Council and at the Regional Mental Health Board level, Lt. McColgan helped to develop innovative partnerships that led to joint trainings with the staff of Danbury Hospital and the Danbury Police. He continues to be proactive in solidifying community-based mental health services so that links for help are seamless.

It is no secret that the relationships between law enforcement and people living with mental illness (including their families) can be problematic and often causes mistrust and hostility towards officers. Lt. McColgan has been able to put a positive and personal face on law enforcement by encouraging individuals at all levels of the mental health system to confront their own prejudices about police in a way that has help to reduce those issues.

Lt. McColgan currently serves as the Chairperson of his local regional mental health board and is the only member of law enforcement to be a member on the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Statewide Mental Health Advisory Board. He also volunteered to serve on the CIT International Conference Committee and was instrumental in raising significant funds to support the conference.

As a staunch champion of CIT, Lt. McColgan has provided the exemplary leadership needed to advance CIT within his department, his region and the state.

Officer Sue Bowman, an 18 year veteran of the Windsor Police Department has been a CIT officer since 2006. She has initiated and facilitated numerous efforts to promote the CIT model in the Town of Windsor. No stranger to innovation, Officer Bowman hosted a "CIT Open House" when her department first launched CIT to establish and promote ongoing partnerships with the community and local mental health providers.

Not missing any opportunity to promote the values of the CIT program, Officer Bowman conducts trainings on everything from illicit drug identifications for community mental health partners, to promoting awareness of mental health issues to students of Windsor High School. She also coordinates monthly meetings between the department's CIT staff and their mental health partners to review cases and share strategies.

One of Officer Bowman's most recent cases involved being the CIT liaison between the school district and the family of a teenage youth diagnosed with autism. The youth was a habitual runaway, often leaving home without shoes and sometimes without any clothes on. In one instance, the youth was found running on the interstate highway. Through Officer Bowman's persistence, the appropriate services were secured and the youth is now safe.

Since May of 2007, Officer Bowman has served as a facilitator and co-trainer for the statewide CIT program. In her commitment to advance CIT, she recently testified before the Governor's State Level Sandy Hook Commission on police protocols to identify and assist those in crisis by connecting them to services.

Officer Bowman's dedication and leadership as a CIT Officer, Trainer and overall advocate of the program truly exemplifies the CIT philosophy for which she is commended.