

Crisis Intervention Team History

Communities large and small are seeking answers to managing crisis issues and crisis services. When changes are mandated, community collaborations and partnerships are the key. Advocates have long asserted that law enforcement personnel do not receive adequate mental health training, resulting in ineffective and sometimes fatal encounters or outcomes. In 1988, Memphis introduced the first crisis intervention team as a component to the community's demand for safer, first-responder crisis services. CIT partnerships led to changes in existing systems and stimulated the development of new infrastructures for services. Suicide attempts and mental health crisis concerns are recognized as a priority. Crises are about people, about our community, our families, our friends, and our loved ones. CIT is founded on principles of dignity, understanding, kindness, hope and dedication.

Major Sam Cochran, Ret.



CIT International Statement of Purpose

CIT International is a non-profit membership organization whose primary purpose is to facilitate understanding, development and implementation of Crisis Intervention Team CIT training programs throughout the U.S. and in other nations worldwide in order to promote and support collaborative efforts to create and sustain more effective interactions among law enforcement, mental health care providers, individuals with mental illness, their families and communities and reduce the stigma of mental illness. CIT International works to accomplish this purpose by raising public and stakeholder awareness through education and outreach, establishing and disseminating recommended standards for developing, implementing and sustaining crisis intervention programs, providing assistance to communities interested in developing CIT programs, supporting research and evaluation of CIT programs and partnering with CIT programs in various localities to hold annual National CIT Conferences.

**Crisis
Intervention
Team Programs
help people with
mental illness
cope and
maintain
recovery**



**Law Enforcement,
Mental Healthcare
Professionals and
mental health
advocates
partnering for a safer
and healthier
community**

**Over 1,000 programs
now in operation—
Worldwide**

CIT -Who We Are

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program is a community partnership of law enforcement, mental health professionals, mental health consumers and their families. The goal of the program is to help persons with mental disorders access medical treatment rather than place them in the criminal justice system for illness-related behaviors.

CIT -Core Elements

The core elements of the Memphis Model of the CIT police training include: 40-hours of in-classroom training of law enforcement officers who volunteer for this program; training on mental health signs and symptoms, appropriate medications and their side effects, a tour of local mental health facilities, use of verbal de-escalation, active listening skills and police tactics for safe restraint and use of force techniques.

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CIT International MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Active Membership in CIT International includes:

- **A CIT annual membership card**
- **A 'CIT International Member' pin**
- **A discount on future CIT International Annual Conference Registration Fees**
- **Quarterly CIT newsletter**
- **Agency/organization/corporate membership will include a certification stating "CIT International Member - member since"...statement available**
- **Access to CIT International's website and blog sites, as developed**
- **Inclusion on the mailing list for routine correspondence from the CIT International Board of Directors on policies and procedures that relate to establishing and maintaining CIT programs around the world**
- **Membership is required to serve on the CIT International Board of Directors**

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**THE FAMILY OF CIT THANKS
YOU!**

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