Ventura County Law Enforcement
Crisis Intervention Team
Program Goals

• Reduce the intensity of a crisis using de-escalation strategies.
• Reduce the necessity for use of force.
• Promote pre-custody diversion.
• Collaborate with mental health consumers, their families, the community, and the stakeholders to build and support a vibrant and accessible crisis system.
• 50 Academies since 2001
• 1785 people trained
  ➢ Local LE
  ➢ Out of County LE
  ➢ Communications Operators
  ➢ Probation
  ➢ Essential Professional Staff
• Instructional Team consists of over 50 members each class
40-hour CIT Trainings

» 3 classes each year, 40 per class
» 67% Communication Operators trained
» 88% County-wide Patrol trained
How Did We Get Here?

• Late 1990’s Officer Involved Shootings
  • Loss of life
  • Loss of Officers
  • Loss of Public confidence
    o Civil litigation

• “There has to be a better way!”
  o LE leadership
  o Why me?
Research and Collaboration

- Ventura County
  - VPD & VCBH
    - Memphis Model 1988
      - Following a proven path
      - San Jose PD, May 2001
    - Major Sam Cochran (Ret.)
  - The partnership begins>
    - VPD, OPD, VCSO, VCBH & NAMI
Program Core Elements

Ongoing Elements

1. Partnerships: Law Enforcement, Advocacy, Mental Health

2. Community Ownership: Planning, Implementation & Networking

3. Policies and Procedures
Operational Elements

4. CIT: Officer, Dispatcher, Coordinator

5. Curriculum: CIT Training

6. Mental Health Receiving Facility: Emergency Service
Core Elements

Sustaining Elements

7. Evaluation and Research

8. In-Service Training

9. Recognition and Honors

10. Outreach: Developing CIT in Other Communities
Benefits of CIT

• Immediacy of response
• Increased officer safety
• Reduced officer/citizen injuries
• Increased jail diversion
• Increased chance for consumer to connect to mental health system
• Increased officer confidence in skills
• Reduced liability
• Reduced unnecessary arrests or use of force
• Avoidance of costs to criminal justice system This is hard to prove
• Positive perception of program
• Linkages to long-term services promoting recovery for the consumer and services in the behavioral health system.
Multi-Agency Leadership

- Law Enforcement administrative support
  - Command Staff
  - Sergeants
  - Coordinators
  - Champions (Change the culture)

- Inter-agency cooperation and collaboration
  - Don’t let the plan stall waiting for all agencies to buy-in
  - Keep moving forward
  - Seek out the right people
The program is funded through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Sheriff’s Office and 5 Police Dept.'s.

- Financial responsibility formula
  - Every MOA partner provides a percentage of the funding based upon the population of its jurisdiction

- Grant funding has been utilized to help expand and sustain the program
- 8-hour MIDD class in Patrol Orientation
- 40-hour CIT Academy
- Act as a liaison between LE, behavioral health, and our stakeholders
- Staff reports
- Create training curriculums
- Quarterly Briefing Training
- LE presentations as requested
- Answer questions about, and connect LE to resources
CIT Program Staff Provides to Community Groups, Consumers and their Families

- Presentations on the CIT program and how LE interacts with families and consumers
- Mental Health First Aid hosting
- Participate in community/stakeholder events
- Follow-up with consumers and family members
  - Provide referrals to community resources
The station’s first point of contact
• Knowledge of local resources
• Maintain and improve stakeholder relationships
• Work collaboratively with CIT Program Staff
• Attend Quarterly Coordinator’s Meetings
• Review CIT Cards in a timely manner
• Proactive and timely information sharing
• Recognize and report training issues
• Help identify CIT Academy candidates
• Nominate someone for CIT Officer of the Year
• Ventura County Behavioral Health through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) gives the CIT Program $100,000 each fiscal year
  o These funds come from their Proposition 63 money earmarked for Prevention and Early Intervention Programs

• Per the MOU the CIT Program agrees to train a minimum of 100 Ventura County Law Enforcement personnel each fiscal year
  • Training rosters
  • Surveys
• Find the right venue
• Supplies – Binders to Thumb drives
  o Role-play props
• Follow your State’s certified extended course outline and retain copies from each class for your archives
• Secure, confirm and re-confirm your instructors (Have a back-up plan)
• All CIT instructors volunteer their time or participate while on duty
• Command Staff Introduction (Be selective and prepare them)
• Graduation
### Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Academy #50: May 13th-17th, 2019

**Location:** Sheriff Training Center @ 106 Durley Ave., Camarillo 93010 - Classroom #2

**Schedule as of 5/17/2019**

- **Monday, May 13th**
  - **8:00** - **8:30** AM: Introduction
  - **8:30** - **9:00** AM: Officer Panel
  - **9:00** - **10:00** AM: De-Escalation #1: Psychosis, Mood, and Personality Disorders
  - **10:00** - **11:00** AM: NAMI / Consumer Stress
  - **11:00** - **12:00** AM: Morning Debrief
  - **12:00** - **1:00** PM: Lunch on your own

- **Tuesday, May 14th**
  - **8:00** - **9:00** AM: Officer Panel
  - **9:00** - **10:00** AM: De-Escalation #2: Psychosis, Mood, and Personality Disorders
  - **10:00** - **12:00** PM: NAMI / Consumer PTSD
  - **12:00** - **1:00** PM: Lunch on your own

- **Wednesday, May 15th**
  - **8:00** - **9:00** AM: De-Escalation #3: Psychosis, Mood, and Personality Disorders
  - **9:00** - **10:00** AM: De-Escalation #2: Psychosis, Mood, and Personality Disorders
  - **10:00** - **12:00** PM: NAMI / Consumer PTSD
  - **12:00** - **1:00** PM: Lunch on your own

- **Thursday, May 16th**
  - **8:00** - **9:00** AM: De-Escalation #3: Psychosis, Mood, and Personality Disorders
  - **9:00** - **10:00** AM: De-Escalation #2: Psychosis, Mood, and Personality Disorders
  - **10:00** - **12:00** PM: NAMI / Consumer PTSD
  - **12:00** - **1:00** PM: Lunch on your own

- **Friday, May 17th**
  - **8:00** - **9:00** AM: De-Escalation #3: Psychosis, Mood, and Personality Disorders
  - **9:00** - **10:00** AM: De-Escalation #2: Psychosis, Mood, and Personality Disorders
  - **10:00** - **12:00** PM: NAMI / Consumer PTSD
  - **12:00** - **1:00** PM: Lunch on your own
Upon completion of the course, Law Enforcement is better prepared to:

• Understand signs and symptoms of mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders
• Recognize when those signs and symptoms represent a crisis situation
• Safely de-escalate individuals experiencing behavioral health crisis
• Utilize community resources and use diversion strategies available to provide emergency assistance
Program Expansion and Stability

• Lead agency - Ventura County Sheriffs Office

  o Program Administrator
    • Behavioral Health Department Liaison
  o Program staff
  o Law Enforcement Countywide Coordinator
  o Centralized location for the program
  o Quarterly meetings and regular contact with CIT Coordinators and CIT stakeholders
Community Stakeholders
Quarterly Meetings

- Behavioral Health
- Hillmont Psychiatric Center
- Vista Del Mar
- Adult Protective Services
- Children Family Services
- NAMI
- VCMiIC
- Brain Injury Center

- Probation Agency
- Public Guardian’s Office
- Alzheimer’s Association
- Casa Pacifica
- Casa de Esperanza
- AWRC & TAY Centers
- Autism Society
- Other LE Agencies
CIT Cards

- Ventura County Law Enforcement are asked to complete information cards
  - Allows CIT Staff to identify persons who are frequent contacts
    - iCop App
  - Allows CIT staff gather data for grants, staff reports, and future projects
Measures

- **Officers’ Actions**
  88% of the contacts result in verbalization only (versus use-of-force)

  - CIT Officers are less likely to use force,
    and they are....
  - 3x more likely to have “contact only”
    - 2x less likely to use jail

  - Handle CIT calls faster
What did officers say about the CIT Academy?

- 100% said they benefited from the training
  - 50% “very much”
- 30% said they use new skills “often”
- 95% felt they could better recognize a mental disorder
- 92% felt better able to handle a call involving mental illness
• 90% believed that the CIT trained officer was able to recognize the mental disorder
• 90% believed the CIT officer was able to de-escalate the crisis in an satisfactory manner
Ventura County

Mark Stadler
Program Administrator
mark.stadler@ventura.org
(805) 388-5107

Scott Walker
Program Assistant
scott.walker@ventura.org
(805) 383-4806