

Benefits

- ◆ Fewer people with mental-illness in jail
- ◆ A decrease in the emergency commitment population
- ◆ Better trained and educated officers and dispatchers
- ◆ Less officer time spent at crisis events
- ◆ A decrease in the use of force during crisis events
- ◆ Fewer injuries to people with mental illness
- ◆ Fewer injuries to the police
- ◆ Improved interaction between the police and mental health service providers



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Crisis Intervention Team Training



Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) is put on as a partnership by the County of Santa Clara and the Sheriff's Department.

CIT is a collaborative, community based 40 hour course that teaches police officers to recognize and address then needs of people with mental illness.



Purpose

Approximately 40% of persons suffering from serious mental illness will be arrested at least once during their lifetimes. It is imperative that progressive law enforcement agencies assume the responsibility of evaluating situations, recognizing mental illness and the need for treatment and getting the mentally ill person to the proper treatment resources.



Innovation

The concept of a Crisis Intervention Team was first established by the Memphis Police Department in 1988. Since that time it has been adopted in numerous states and throughout California.

Training

Academy

Patrol officers and Public Safety Dispatchers attend a 40-hour curriculum under the instructional supervision of mental health professionals, family advocates and mental health consumer groups. Training enables the officers and dispatchers to understand that mental illness is a disease, not a crime.

Instructors

As a community based effort, instructors have been chosen from a variety of sources: Stanford, Menlo Park Veteran's Hospital, San Jose State University, Santa Clara County Mental Health Department, and National Alliance for the Mentally-Ill, various community agencies and those in private practice with experience in the assessment and treatment of persons with mental-ill.

Enrollment

The CIT Academy is POST approved. It is held at the Sheriff's Academy once a year and at various other locations two other times.

To **sign-up for training** go to:

www.sccsheriff.org/portal/site/sheriff

(Click on training)

Goals of CIT

- ◆ Reduce injuries and deaths to both officers and people with mental illness
- ◆ Reduce unnecessary arrests and incarcerations of people with mental illness
- ◆ Improve access to services for people with mental illness
- ◆ Reduce the stigma attached to mental illness
- ◆ Improve the skills and confidence level of officers dealing with people with mental illness in crisis

