

CIT Peer Review Highlights

The ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County and the Cleveland Division of Police are committed to improving the CIT program and training. We will utilize all of the suggestions from the CIT Peer Review while focusing on the following areas of improvement that have not been previously discussed or recommended.

CIT Program Challenges/Suggestions:

A. CIT Training Committee:

- Meet more than twice per year.
- Should focus on more than just training:
 - Expansion of program throughout the county.
 - Program development and support.
 - Include data reported from other jurisdictions than Cleveland.

B. CIT program should strengthen local and state coordination:

- State CIT program offers training and program resources.
- Local CIT should attend State CIT meetings.

C. Strengthen current recruitment process of voluntary officers:

- Should have an interview with the officer and/or background review.
- How officers get into the trainings is important for class dynamics.

H. Develop a Crisis Communication Policy:

- ADAMHS Board and Law Enforcement
- Respond if a “bad outcome” with a CIT Officer.
- Establish who deals with media and public on inquiries.
- Use CIT data to show number of safe encounters.

I. Liability of “Pink slip” process of involuntary hospitalizations:

- Obtain legal consultation to determine if liability on law enforcement can be lessened when taking a person involuntarily to the hospital for evaluation.
- Recommend detaining officer to complete “pink slip.”
- Some counties have officers “pink slip” even for voluntary clients.

J. Transporting:

- EMS and Fire Department should transport individuals in a psychiatric crisis – mental illness is a psychical illness of the brain.

K. CIT Recognition Program:

- CIT officers should be formally recognized for outstanding efforts.
 - i. Can be used to also promote program to officers, other law enforcement agencies, media, mental health advocates and the entire community.

CIT Training Challenges/Suggestions

A. Keep class sizes to 24:

- Better sense of engagement with small size class.
- More individual attention.
- Allows every student to role play.

C. More interactive learning:

- Too much reliance on PowerPoint and lecture.
- Add more demonstrations, small group activities, visuals and interactive exercises.

F. Strengthen Legal Block:

- Add review of case law.
- Provides context for CIT's less authoritative de-escalation techniques.

G. Summarize Training Evaluations:

- Use comments on training evaluation forms to look for trends and develop future trainings.

H. Role plays:

- Current class size only allows for officers to participate in one scenario.
- Adopt a formal way to grade the role plays.