

THOMAS JEFFERSON AREA

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM



MISSION

CIT is designed to educate and prepare law enforcement officers who come into contact with people in crisis, to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness and to respond effectively and appropriately to the individual.

VISION

Safety for the Officer, Safety for the Community & Safety for the Person in Crisis

OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

1) Reduce officer injuries due mental health crisis calls.

Over four years (2008-2011) there were **over 5,000 mental health crisis calls** with **NOT** a single documented officer injury (Charlottesville, Albemarle, UVA).

2) Reduce the time that officers spend on mental health related calls.

Reduced officer ECO / TDO time from an average of 4 to 6 hours per call to an average of **52 minutes** (from time of dispatch to the time of releasing custody of patient at UVA hospital ER with Custody Exchange MOA with UVA Police Department).

3) Based on the Virginia CIT Model, train a minimum of 25% of patrol officers within each law enforcement department to be trained in CIT.

- Over **70%** of all police officers (Charlottesville, Albemarle, UVA) instructed in 40-Hour Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services accredited trainings.
- Over **30%** of county sheriff deputies within 7 of the 9 rural counties trained in the Thomas Jefferson Area CIT region.
- **100%** of Emergency Dispatchers instructed within 6 of the 9 localities in the TJA-CIT area in 4-Hour CIT Training (currently increased to 8 hour trainings).
- Trained over **600** officers within TJA-CIT area and throughout the Commonwealth.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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"CIT is still the most sought after training provided locally "

*—Chief Mike Gibson,
University of Virginia
Police Department*

"The CIT training was one of the very best training sessions that has been given to me in my 28 years as a police officer"

*—Chief Tim Longo,
Charlottesville Police
Department*

"In the law enforcement community the Jail is the biggest benefactor of the CIT Program"

*—Col. Ronald Matthews
Charlottesville-
Albemarle Regional Jail*



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OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES (CONTINUED)

4) Keep many mentally ill individuals out of the criminal justice system (when safe and appropriate).



Universally, a law enforcement officer can respond to a mental health crisis with one of these four outcomes.

4 Years of 911 Mental Health Calls

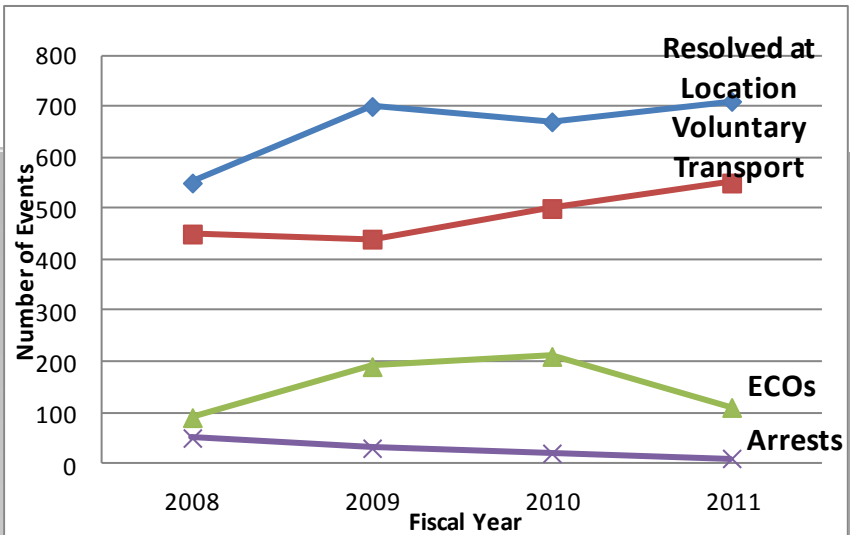


CHART: (from Charlottesville, Albemarle, UVA 911 ECC Center) documents that most Mental Health Crisis calls are either “resolved on location” or “voluntary transported to treatment” by police officers. There is also a steady, consistent decline in the number of mental health calls that end with an arrest. The emphasis of CIT program and training is to provide as many resources and options for the responding CIT officers.

5) CIT Taskforce is to design and implement a written protocol that governs the agencies’ interactions in working with people experiencing acute episodes of mental illness and with mentally ill individuals who have found themselves in a situation in which law enforcement has intervened.

A. **Created MOA** contract with UVA Police Department establishing a Regional CIT Custody Exchange Program to enhance the handling of ECO patients at the University of Virginia Emergency Department (UVA ED) for evaluation. 5 localities within the TJA-CIT program have signed the MOA for FY2012.

B. **Developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)** with Law Enforcement Departments for improved communications between Officers, Emergency Dispatchers, local Hospitals and Region Ten CSB with responding and transporting to ECO/TDO Crisis Calls.

C. **Initiated Monthly CIT Review Team Meetings** where representatives from local law enforcement agencies (Police, Jail, 911, Probation) meet with community agencies (Hospitals, Mental Health Agencies, Wounded Warrior Program) to proactively review critical mental health cases and develop support and accountability plans to reduce incarceration and recidivism.

“There is no doubt in my mind that CIT training results in less instances of deadly use of force. I highly recommend that police administrators make this training mandatory for all of their officers”
—Col. Steve Sellers, Albemarle County Police Department

“Mutual respect, collaboration, and planning between law enforcement and Region Ten has never been better. CIT works!”
— Buzz Barnett, LCSW, Emergency Services Director Region Ten CSB

“NAMI applauds CIT and all their efforts to help those in crisis!”
- Sally Rinehart, President, NAMI-Blue Ridge Family Alliance