

Tasks: Commit to CIT

Task	Instructions	Resources	Completed
Create a Steering Committee	A CIT Steering Committee helps to formalize the work of a few dedicate individuals and create a structure for committing to CIT. The committee should initially include the core community partners – law enforcement, mental health providers and advocates – as well as any interested community leaders (such as judges or mayors) who are often champions of CIT. It's important that those core partners commit to working together and share a common vision before recruiting a broad stakeholder group. Assembling a steering committee may start immediately or may evolve over time.		
Select a chairperson for the Steering Committee	The person who serves as the CIT chairperson may not be the same person who initiated the exploration of CIT. The CIT chairperson can come from any of the core partner groups and should be selected based on his or her leadership skills. It is imperative for a CIT chairperson have skills that promote an atmosphere of respect, cooperation and goodwill. In addition, this individual should have a familiarity with existing community systems and challenges. Finally, the individual should have sufficient political savvy to navigate difficult situations, cope with a variety of personalities and overcome obstacles.		
Meet regularly and seek funding if needed	As the steering committee becomes more structured, it will need to meet with more consistency. Consistent meetings will allow the group to develop a work plan and address difficult or contentious issues. Many communities assume that they need to seek funding at this stage, but funding is often not a key ingredient. If you do choose to pursue grant funding, assume that your funding will be short term and plan to use the funding to achieve some defined goals, but continue to focus on building strong partnerships, which will sustain the program when funding dries up.		

Expand the number of people willing to help with CIT	Starting a CIT Steering Committee from a well orchestrated and committed core group—law enforcement, mental health providers and advocates—will help to maintain unity and clarity of purpose as new members are added to the steering committee. The expansion of the committee will come naturally as it begins to address complex community issues/concerns. The group should delay efforts to expand until members have come to a more unified vision as to the purpose and goals of CIT. Otherwise, new partners may derail or distract from the mission of the committee.	NAMI's CIT for Youth manual, Step 1	
Consult with experts	There are a variety of experts that your committee may wish to consult with or even ask to participate in the steering committee. For example, grant-writers, academic researchers, CIT community presenters, CIT planners, CIT coordinators. National organizations can provide expert assistance and can help guide you to local or regional CIT programs that provide expert assistance. Consultation may include a simple phone call, or may include hiring an individual for part of the process. It is important to have a thorough understanding of the CIT program and your community's goals and use experts to help achieve those goals.	BJA's law enforcement TA sites University of Memphis CIT Center NAMI CIT Center George Mason University Center for Evidence Based Crime Police E-Consortium	
Create a forum for the initial stages of problem solving	Many communities delay creating a CIT steering committee because of perceived problems that seem insurmountable. Specifically, many communities believe they do not have enough community mental health resources to do CIT. The early planning stages of the steering committee should focus specific time and attention to problems that everyone knows exists. Identifying long and short term objectives can help the steering committee to maintain realistic approach that will lead to realist accomplishments, while building and maintaining internal strength. As the steering committee matures and grows more determined and committed, it will be better equipped to address problems that may have seemed insurmountable. .		
Secure agreement	As the committee completes tasks it should begin to mature.	Model law enforcement	

<p>from stakeholders to invest and participate</p>	<p>Solidifying the unity of the committee is a priority, specifically unity of partnerships, purpose, role, intentions and commitment to CIT. As the partner organizations unify they should develop a formal commitment to CIT and to each other. This commitment generally is formalized in two specific ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Roles and responsibilities of the partner organizations should be formalized with a Memorandum of Understanding. (2) Specific agencies should develop policies and procedures which help to encourage cooperation with other partners. <p>Each issue requires a specific commitment.</p>	<p>agency policy (on U Memphis website)</p> <p>CIT for Youth manual: Crisis Contract and Memorandum of Understanding</p>	