

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM
CIT
City/County CIT Planning Committee Meeting
Minutes of CIT Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2009
8:30 to 11:30AM

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Planning Committee was called to order by Sheriff Jim Hammond, Hamilton County. Sheriff Hammond welcomed committee members and guests who were present. (The names and agency affiliations of committee members will be attached).

Sheriff Hammond thanked committee members for their support, dedication, and commitment to the CIT Project. Sheriff Hammond acknowledged that this project was overdue in coming to Hamilton County, but with the talent, involvement, and cooperation of committee members, CIT will be implemented and sustainable within Hamilton County. Sheriff Hammond acknowledged that the strength of citizens of Hamilton County will be found within partnerships and that the formation and implementation of CIT will require that same commitment. The Memphis CIT Project was recognized as a national model with vast acceptance from over 1,000 locales throughout cities and counties across the United States. CIT was presented as a law enforcement first responder program supporting and emphasizing several community objectives: safety, pre-jail diversion, partnership boundary spanning, systems and infrastructure linkage with services and care. Sheriff Hammond set the stage and direction for committee members, adding that commitment and service will be required from everyone. The committee acknowledged Sheriff Hammond's leadership and his commitment to making the Hamilton County CIT Project a community success.

The Memphis CIT consultants were introduced: Major Sam Cochran (retired Memphis Police Department); Drs. KB Turner and Randy Dupont, The University of Memphis; and Mr. Tom von Hemert, Thomas Jefferson Area CIT Coordinator.

The consultants provided a CIT overview, aided with a slide program presenting the framework of CIT as a model that is comprised of community partnerships. Each of the speakers presented the reoccurring theme of the CIT model: CIT is not just a training program; CIT is a partnership model addressing mental illnesses and co-occurring substance abuse issues of the community and the criminal justice system.

Mr. Tom von Hemert followed with a PowerPoint presentation of setting ground rules for the committee members starting their new mission of bringing CIT to Hamilton County. Participation was encouraged and committee members welcomed the agenda format and the plan of working together.

The committee was introduced to a mental health systems flow chart (work in progress) prepared by Ms. Judi Byrd (see attachment). Committee members acknowledged the complexities within the current systems and recognized that more details were needed to create a better understanding.

Committee members were given an opportunity to write two recommendations they believed were necessary changes within current crisis services:

1. A change they feel is needed within their immediate service capacity or responsibility.
2. A change they feel is needed within the current crisis service.

As a result of the services discussion, it was determined that there are strengths and barriers within the current systems and crisis services. It was recommended that additional information from the Systems Subcommittee would be required.

Following a short break, the meeting resumed with a discussion of the committee members voicing their involvement and understanding of the current systems.

Major Cochran presented a proposed work plan timeline of the CIT project. He emphasized that the time line references multi-stages of development and should be viewed as a work in progress.

The next items presented were the introduction of two subcommittees: Data Information and Systems Subcommittees.

The Data Information Subcommittee will consist of the following persons:

- Co-chair: Donna Maddox, Joe Johnson Mental Health Center
- Co-chair: Assistant Chief Mike Williams, Chattanooga Police Department
- Co-chair: Captain John Swope, Hamilton County Sheriff's Department
- Member: Dr. Eileen Robertson-Rehberg, Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies
- Support staff: Dan Saieed, Director of Development, Hamilton County

The Systems Subcommittee will consist of the following persons:

- Co-chair: Earl Medley, President &CEO, Fortwood Mental Health Center
- Co-chair: Captain Randy Dunn, Chattanooga Police Department
- Co-chair: Chief Ron Parsons, Hamilton County Sheriff's Department
- Member: Lt. Mike Kribbs, Hamilton County Sheriff's Department
- Support staff: Judith C. Byrd, Director of Social Services, Hamilton County

Major Cochran presented and discussed a document that focused on addressing the question of who should attend the Memphis two-day training session in April 2009 (See attachment).

The next discussion centered on identifying potential individuals to be included in subsequent meetings regarding the development of the CIT Project in Hamilton County. In light of this discussion, committee members suggested names of individuals representing other organizations who may contribute to the development of the Hamilton County CIT Project.

The next meeting date was set for February 27, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM.

(The two Subcommittees met afterwards to further discuss their roles and plan for future meetings. The Subcommittee will submit their reports to the committee on February 27, 2009).