



## **40 Hour CIT Curriculum 2012 Presentation Descriptions**

### **Consumer Perspective – First Hand Experience with Mental Illness (2 Segments will be presented by consumers with differing illnesses. Total 2 Hours)**

This segment will call upon consumers of mental health services in Arlington County to describe their experiences in living with mental illness. The consumers will present a history of their illness, from onset of symptoms to diagnosis and treatment, to their current status. The consumers will also provide a history of hospitalizations and arrests, which will allow participants a glimpse into the harsh reality of the experience of living with mental illness. They will speak specifically about personal interactions with the police, highlighting what was helpful to them during their crisis. The consumers will additionally provide participants with an opportunity to ask questions.

### **Family Perspective (1 Hour)**

Family members will present the experience of having a loved one with mental illness, describing their assistance and involvement from onset of symptoms, diagnosis and current situation. Family members will candidly discuss their loved one's experiences with outpatient and/or inpatient mental health treatment, as well as their interactions with the police and the legal system. In addition, family members will describe what they believe the police have done to assist the family and their loved one and what steps could be taken to improve police interaction with consumers.