

*Ventura County Law Enforcement
Crisis Intervention Team*



Policy and Protocol

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Ventura County Sheriff's Office

CIT Academy #30-A

Introduction



- Ventura County Sheriff and Police Chiefs' Association
- Ventura County Behavioral Health Department (VCBH)
- 40 hour academy
- December 2001

Mission Statement



- The mission of the VC CIT program is to develop partnerships with mental health consumers and their family members, and other agencies and organizations.

CIT officers will respond to individuals who are in crisis as a result of a mental disorder, and shall assess and assist those individuals in the most effective and compassionate manner possible.

Strategy



- Our strategy for accomplishing this mission is to facilitate the safe and secure assessment and transportation of an individual in crisis, who meets the criteria established in W&I Code Section 5150, to an appropriate mental health facility.

CIT program staff shall act as a law enforcement liaison with the Behavioral Health Department (BHD), and other agencies and organizations.

Policy



- It is the policy of Ventura County law enforcement agencies to utilize CIT officers in calls-for-service involving known or suspected mentally ill individuals when the officer(s) are available and circumstances are appropriate.

Involuntary Detentions



- Authorized Persons
 - ✓ Designated mental health professionals (countywide)
 - ✓ Peace officers (statewide)

Involuntary Detentions



➤ Probable Cause

- ✓ Facts leading a person of ordinary care and prudence
- ✓ To believe or strongly suspect
- ✓ Danger to self or others
- ✓ Gravely disabled.....Due to mental illness
- ✓ 5150.05 W.&I.

Initiating of Application



- Agency initiating request
- Shall have the responsibility to complete all forms

Site Control



- Containment of individual and immediate area
- To ensure safety
- Responsible for back-up services

Mental Health Crisis Team



The Mental Health Crisis Team
is mobile.

1. Call 1-866-998-2243 24-hours
2. East County call 805-494-8253

Mental Health Information



- If you choose to contact Hillmont Psychiatric Center (“Mental Health”) to let them know you are transporting a 5150 for admission, call: 805-652-5755.
- If you would like to refer someone to social service resources, dial “211”

Designated Mental Health Facility



- No medical emergency
- Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (“LPS”)
 - ✓ Hillmont Psychiatric Center
 - ✓ County Mental Health
 - ✓ Vista del Mar (age 12+)
 - ✓ Private psychiatric hospital

Designated Mental Health Facility



- Medical emergency – supersedes psychiatric emergency
 - ✓ Obtain immediate care per policy

5150.2 W.I.C.



- The hospital shall not delay any law enforcement longer than necessary to complete all required documentation to ensure the safe and orderly transfer of custody of the detained individual.

5152 W.I.C.



- The admitting hospital staff shall ensure that each individual admitted for 72-hr. treatment and evaluation receive an evaluation as soon as possible after admission.

W&I and PC Codes



- W&I 5150 – 72 hours
- W&I 5250 – 14 days
- W&I 5300 – 180 days
- W&I 5150.05 – Considered evidence,
not hearsay
- W&I 5358.5 – Conservators
- PC 1610 – “Doctor’s Hold” / CONREP

“EMTALA”

- Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act of 1986 – “anti-dumping act”
 - Ensures public access to services regardless of ability to pay
 - Hospitals must medically screen, clear, stabilize, and transfer or release person
 - Hospital cannot ask law enforcement to transfer person (unless combative) as hospital has become responsible agent

Hospital Information

- H&S 1799.111 – Allows hospital to keep person up to 24 hours
- Hospital must secure a “bed” (placement) before initiating transfer
- 5150 hold becomes invalid once a person is admitted to a non-LPS facility (medical facility)

Tarasoff Notifications



- Duty to warn – mental health professionals
- Threatened person and those in authority to protect intended victim
- Not a breach of patient confidentiality

Procedure



- CIT members should be dispatched to calls involving known or suspected mentally ill individuals when:
 - ✓ Mental illness has precipitated a response
 - ✓ Crisis related calls where an individual, that as a result of a mental disorder, is a danger to himself, others, or is gravely disabled

Procedure



- CIT Available
 - ✓ Call-takers will note a CIT was dispatched
 - ✓ CIT will handle call and complete paperwork

Procedure



- CIT Not Available
 - ✓ Call-taker will dispatch non-CIT
 - ✓ Call-taker will advise W/C
 - ✓ W/C decision on outside jurisdiction

Procedure



- Request Made and Granted
 - ✓ I/C of affected agency remains in control
 - ✓ Affected agency will handle press
 - ✓ CIT will be used for crisis intervention only
 - ✓ CIT not responsible for transportation, crime report or investigation
 - ✓ CIT may be used to assist with consumer victims

Procedure



HNT/CNT

v.

CIT