

## **Cognitive Disorders**

### ***Objective:***

***Officers will understand Cognitive Disorders and the key elements to Alzheimer's.***

- Identifying Persons with Alzheimer's
- Communicating with Persons with Alzheimer's

### ***Definition***

- ***Cognition refers to that operation of the mind process by which we become aware of objects of thought and perception, including all aspects of perceiving, thinking, and remembering.***

### ***Symptoms Related to Cognitive Disorders***

- A major loss of contact with reality.
- An interference with the ability to meet life's demands
- Possible delusions and hallucinations
- Alteration of mood
- Deficits in perception, language, memory and cognition.

**CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM TRAINING  
BEXAR COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

## **The Two Most Common Cognitive Disorders Include:**

- Alzheimer's Disease
- Substance Abuse Disorders

## **Syndromes in the Dementia Spectrum**

- Alzheimer's
- Vascular Dementia
- Delirium
- Parkinson's Disease
- Subtotal Hematomas
- Depression

## **Alzheimer's disease**

- The most common Organic Brain Disorder in persons over the age of 65 is Alzheimer's disease.
- Alzheimer's is one of several disorders that cause a gradual loss of brain cells.
- The cause of all dementia is abnormal loss of brain tissue.

**CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM TRAINING  
BEXAR COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**Dementia is characterized by loss of memory PLUS one or more of the following:**

- Aphasia
- Apraxia
- Agnosia
- Loss of higher executive functioning

## **Identifying Alzheimer's Disease**

- These Develop in Stages
  - Very mild to severe cognitive decline
  - Memory lapse
  - Impaired recent memory
  - Help with ADL's
  - Disorientation
  - Loss of speech and physical abilities

## **Statistics**

- Approximately 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease (AD). Unless a cure or prevention is found, that number will increase to 14 million by 2050.
- An estimated 280,000 Texas have Alzheimer's disease.
- One in eight persons over 65 and nearly half of those over 85 have AD. A small percentage of people as young as their 30s and 40s get the disease.
- Direct and indirect costs of AD and other dementia's amount to more than \$148 billion annually.

# CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM TRAINING

## BEXAR COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### Statistics (continued)

- Almost 10 million Americans are caring for a person with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia; approximately one out of three of these caregivers is 60 years or older.
- In 2005, it was estimated that unpaid caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias provided 8.5 billion hours of care valued at almost \$83 billion dollars.
- More than half the states in the United States provide more than a billion dollars in unpaid care each year – Texas \$5.8 billion
- A person with Alzheimer's disease will live an average of eight years and as many as 20 years or more from the onset of symptoms

### Risk Factors for Developing AD

- Age
- Family History
- Genetics
- Head Injury
- Heart-Head Connection (cardiovascular)

### How to Communicate

- Overall be patient
- Ask for ID
- Treat with dignity
- Remove distractions
- Speak slowly, minimize instructions
- Explain your actions before beginning any processes
- Do not argue or challenge
- Do not leave person alone