

Ventura County CIT Course Outline

Course Overview (1 hour)

- A. Goals
 - i. “Tools” that may work
 - 1. Encouraging officers to try verbal techniques before utilizing force.
 - 2. Explaining that the techniques learned will be versatile for a variety of emotional disturbances but their effectiveness is not guaranteed in every scenario.
 - ii. Explaining that the techniques learned should not take away from officer safety at any time
 - 1. Reminding officers about the option of having a designated “shooter” and/or designated “less lethal” to accompany the designated “talker”.
- B. Housekeeping
 - i. Location of restroom facilities
 - ii. Classroom cleanliness
- C. Ground rules & Class-developed rules
 - i. Being respectful of other’s experiences, feelings, and opinions
 - ii. Use of personal technology in the classroom
 - iii. Absences and tardiness
- D. Brief summary of Educational Topics/Disorders & Class Schedule
- E. Description of Guest Speakers
 - i. Encouraging students to ask thoughtful questions.
 - ii. Reminder that some guest speakers are officers, some are mental health professionals, some are family members, and some are previous/current mental health consumers.
 - iii. Instructions on the avenues to provide instructor and guest speaker feedback/comments to the CIT Program.
- F. Description of the CIT program
 - i. Memphis Model vs. Ventura County Model
 - 1. Dual officer and crisis team model
 - 2. Percentage of officers trained & future goals
 - 3. Volunteer assignment vs. training rotation
 - 4. Relationship building with community & consumers
 - 5. Pro-active follow-up
 - ii. Pre-booking Diversion Program
 - 1. Is it a crime or is it an emotional disturbance due to a mental illness/developmental disability?
 - 2. Option of getting mental health treatment.
 - 3. What, if any, mental health services are offered in the jail.
 - 4. Recidivism
 - iii. Statistics
 - 1. Response time
 - 2. Disposition time
 - 3. Injury to officers
 - 4. Injury (including shootings) to consumers
 - iv. Liaison work that CIT Program Staff performs

1. Benefits for officers
 2. Benefits for mental health agencies
 3. Benefits for family members and consumers
- G. Open Q&A Session
- H. Class Introductions
- i. Individuals are paired off and interview one another
 1. Length of time in Law Enforcement
 2. Percentage of time dealing with MIDD
 3. Number of hours of training since Basic Academy
 4. Personal learning goals
 5. Do they know someone who has a mental illness, developmental disability, or brain injury?
 - a. What are the challenges that person has?
 - ii. Selected groups then share what they learned with the rest of the class.