

STUDY AND DESIGN OF A CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM PROGRAM DCDHS-ACS DIVISION

The Crisis Intervention Team model is an innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention with community, health care, and advocacy partnerships. The CIT model was first developed in Memphis and has spread throughout the country. CIT provides law enforcement based crisis intervention training for assisting those individuals with a mental illness, and improves the safety of patrol officers, consumers, family members, and citizens within the community. CIT provides a forum for effective problem solving regarding the interaction between the criminal justice and mental health care system and creates the context for sustainable change. CIT has three parts: 1) law enforcement, 2) community mental health resources, and 3) advocacy groups. Collaboration among the three is essential for design and implementation.

Fourteen officers and deputies from seven different law enforcement agencies completed 40 hours of CIT training in September 2014. This training was sponsored by NAMI Dane County, a mental health advocacy group, and the Madison Police Department. This training will be repeated in June 2015.

Consideration of implementing a Crisis Intervention Team model designed specifically for Dane County is important because a) there is criminalization of people with mental illness in Dane County as evidenced by the large number of people with mental illness in the Dane County Jail, b) there are concerns about the recent deaths of people in mental health crises in recent events involving law enforcement officers in Dane County, and c) there are barriers to treatment for people in mental health crises in Dane County.

United Way of Dane County and NAMI Dane County jointly sponsored CIT summit meetings on August 27 and September 9, 2014, to discuss mental health crises that compromise public safety. Over twenty five community leaders from government, law enforcement, hospitals, mental health providers and advocacy organizations participated. Objectives included: 1) insuring the safety of people with mental illness, their families, law enforcement, and the community, 2) developing a common understanding of the scope and dimension of mental health issues in which law enforcement becomes involved to protect the public, and 3) determining next steps to prevent negative results as a result of mental health crises. One of the CIT summit action items was to create a Dane County Board of Supervisors resolution to perform a cost/benefit analysis of providing mental health services to individuals with mental health crises.

The county's Long Term Support Committee heard a presentation on Crisis Intervention Teams at its July 2014 meeting and has discussed the CIT model at its subsequent meetings. On October 15, 2014, the committee unanimously passed a motion supporting introduction of this resolution. In May, 2015, Dane County passed 2015 Res. 556, Investigating Alternatives to Incarceration, Solutions to Racial Disparities and Mental Health Challenges in Dane County Jail and Throughout Dane County's Criminal Justice System. Three workgroups were created to "engage the larger community to address inequities in criminal justice, specifically around mental health and incarceration, solitary confinement and length of stay, and alternatives to arrest and incarceration." Crisis intervention team goals are consistent with Res. 556 Guiding Principles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors endorses Crisis Intervention Team goals of improving officer and consumer safety and redirecting individuals in mental health crises from the judicial system to the health care system;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors calls upon mental health care providers, law enforcement agencies, and mental health care advocates in Dane County to collaborate in designing CIT programs for Dane County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in 2015 and 2015, the Dane County Board of Supervisors, through the 2015 Res. 556 criminal justice reform workgroups and the implementation of their recommendations, study mental health and substance abuse diversion resources, needs, and models for implementation in Dane County including, but not limited to, the Memphis CIT model, the San Antonio Restoration Center model, the Tellurian detox facility, facilities similar to mental health care centers operated by Journey Mental Health Center, Inc. and Tellurian UCAN, Inc., and permanent supportive housing resources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors supports funding to implement CIT programs in Dane County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that information on the need to expand mental health crisis services to provide in-person mobile crisis response teams on a 24 hours a day. Seven days a week basis, as well as the cost to provide such

services, as recommended by the Mental Health, Solitary Confinement, and Incarceration Workgroup, shall be provided to both PP&J and HHN by November 1, 2015.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to law enforcement agencies, mental health provider agencies, and mental health advocacy groups in Dane County.