



THE TEAM NEWS

Official Voice of Crisis Intervention Team International

Fall 2009



CIT - Deep In The Heart of Texas!

THE FIRST CIT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**San Antonio, TX
June 1-3, 2010**

Get ready one and all for three days of learning, networking, fun and festivities at the 1st International Conference to be held in San Antonio, Texas from June 1-3, 2010.

This Conference is a continuation of the four previous CIT National Conferences. However, since the formation of the CIT International Organization the board of directors decided it was time to change the name of the conference to be in line with the Organi-

zation. These conferences will be a signature event sponsored by CIT International.

This year's conference is shaping up to be very exciting and informative. The San Antonio conference committee along with CIT International's conference committee are working hard to bring in noteworthy keynote speakers, develop an array of workshops and presentations that will continue to advance the work of CIT and other criminal justice/mental health initiatives and to ensure everyone has time for a little relaxation and fun...Texas Style.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.CHCSBH.ORG/CIT



Message from the President

By Mike Woody

As many of you know starting up an organization takes time and the dedication of several people. The board of directors for CIT International have spent countless hours putting a basic foundation in place such as establishing all the legal and financial re-

quirements to become a 501 (c) 3 organization, creating a basic website and establishing committees to move the organization forward. This is where you as members come in. Now is the time to put all your talents into helping make this organization grow. We need your help on several

of the committees that have been established. If interested please contact me at my email address listed on page 4.

Committees are:
Standards Committee
Website Committee
Newsletter Committee
Fundraising Committee

CIT Featured on YouTube

Al Jazeera recently spent four days with the Houston Police Department's Mental Health Unit and also the Harris County Sheriff's Department Mental Health Unit inside the jail. Very powerful video that you may want to incorporate into training or for agencies trying to start up CIT.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=An62HTiarXA>

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CIT AROUND THE NATION

Chief McMaster —“Thank God for CIT”

By Robbie Butler, CEO
Charlotte White Center

Greenville, Maine— In August of 2008, Police Chief Scott McMaster of Greenville was called to the Indian Hill Trading Post to deal with an individual who entered the store with a shotgun in an attempted robbery. The individual went directly to the sporting goods area and took a hand gun and bullets. At this point, the person specifically asked for the Chief McMaster by name stating he wanted the police to shoot him.

Chief McMaster had received CIT training when he worked in Kennebec County. He credited that training with helping him remain calm on the way to the scene. When telling of this incident, the Chief explained how the training taught officers to watch for

“triggers” which make the person become more upset, as well as learning techniques to avoid the escalation triggers. The other important information from his CIT training that helped was when the man pointed the gun at his own head, Chief McMaster refused to look away and told the man about the emotional consequences the Chief himself would have to live with as a result of being forced to watch him commit suicide.

During the episode, Chief McMaster shared the range of emotions he went through from anger at being put in the position of possibly being shot, having to shoot someone else, or having to see someone kill themselves. He credited

his ability to keep those emotions under control during the confrontation to the CIT training he had received.



The incident ended positively with the Chief talking the individual down to the point he turned over the gun and was removed

from the store. The Chief's response after this event was **“Thank God for CIT!”**

CIT EXPANDS IN THE HEARTLAND

By Steve McCorkill & Kyle Shipps Co-Chairs
Kansas Law Enforcement CIT Council

Kansas — The Kansas Law Enforcement CIT Council has been contracted by the University of Kansas and the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center to provide CIT training to Kansas Police Officers and Deputy Sheriff's all across the state. After receiving a donation from the Tower Foundation in Topeka, earmarked specifically for CIT expansion, plans were immediately under way to take CIT statewide. The plan calls for six 40 hour CIT classes over a period of 3 years in locations throughout Kansas. The goal is to bring CIT to smaller communities and areas where advanced training in mental health issues is not readily available. This grant will pay for lodging, meals, and tuition for over 200 more officers to get the 40 hour basic CIT training. For more information please visit our web site at <http://www.kansascit.org/>.



2009 Kansas Law Enforcement CIT

UPCOMING EVENTS 2010



GAINS Conference
March 15-17, 2010, Orlando, FL
www.gainscenter.samhsa.gov

National Sheriffs Assoc.
June 26-30, 2010, Anaheim, CA
www.sheriffs.org

International Assoc. of Chiefs of Police
October 23-27, 2010, Orlando, FL
www.theiacp.org

NAMI National
June 30—July 4, 2010, Washington, DC
www.nami.org

National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
March 15—17, 2010, Orlando, FL
www.thenationalcouncil.org

CIT AROUND THE NATION

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Community Collaborative:

Growth and Expansion of Southwest Louisiana's CIT Program

By Richard Tanous

Louisiana— The growth of CIT Southwest Louisiana has become a model for many agencies throughout many parts of Louisiana. A collaborative effort of law enforcement and community came together in support of the CIT program's development. The initial partnership consisted of NAMI Southwest Louisiana, Lake Charles Police Department, Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, state's regional Office of Mental Health,

and McNeese State University's Psychology Department. These entities' partnership created a 40 hour CIT training program based at the university, taught free of charge by professors, mental health professionals, and law enforcement trainers (quarterly). The uniqueness of this partnership opened its training free of charge to all regional law enforcement agencies. The regional program soon became the

trainer and mentor to agencies through much of the state, training officers from Alexandria, Lafayette, Baton Rouge, and St. Tammy Parish near New Orleans. Several of these agencies have since either instituted their own 40 hour training program or are in the process of doing so. These agencies have based their program development from the Southwest Louisiana program's POST approved curriculum.



Some members of Southwest Louisiana CIT Partnership attending the 2007 CIT Conference: Lake Charles Police Department and (Police Chief Don Dixon in suit *CIT Chief of the Year*), Calcasieu Parish Sheriff Office, NAMI of Southwest Louisiana, Samaritan Counseling Center, Resource Management Services, and regional Office of Mental Health.

CIT and NAMI

The National Alliance on Mental Illness -- NAMI has a special relationship with the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program at local, state, and even the national level. NAMI National keeps its members informed about CIT through its program "CIT In Action." To find out more about NAMI and CIT In Action go to www.nami.org or contact: Laura Usher, NAMI CIT Coordinator at: laurau@nami.org.

NAMI celebrated its 30th year at its Annual conference held in San Fran-

cisco in July. Several workshops related to CIT and the criminal justice system which included:

- CIT and Veterans—A natural partnership
- Breaking the Cycle of Criminalization—The growing role of specialty courts
- Stakeholders Perspective on Tasers and Less Lethal Weapons
- Prevention, Not Execution: Eliminating the death penalty for persons with severe mental illnesses.

Two special awards were given at the annual conference:

Dr. Randy Dupont received the "NAMI Outstanding Psychologist" award for his work in advancing CIT

Judge Stephen Manley received the "Sam Cochran Criminal Justice" award or his pioneering work with Mental Health Courts in Santa Clara, CA



**CIT INTERNATIONAL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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CIT International is a non-profit membership organization whose primary purpose is to facilitate understanding, development and implementation of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs throughout the U.S. and in other nations worldwide in order to promote and support collaborative efforts to create and sustain more effective interactions among law enforcement, mental health care providers, individuals with mental illness, their families and communities and reduce the stigma of mental illness. CIT International works to accomplish this purpose by raising public and stakeholder awareness through education and outreach, establishing and disseminating recommended standards for developing, implementing and sustaining crisis intervention programs, providing assistance to communities interested in developing CIT programs, supporting research and evaluation of CIT programs and partnering with CIT programs in various localities to hold annual National CIT Conferences.

CONTACT US AT:
WWW.citinternational.org

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

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THE FAMILY OF CIT THANKS YOU!

CIT International, Inc.

Please Join Today

Membership Dues Structure

Regular Member \$ 25.00

Non Profit Member \$ 50.00

Corporate Member \$200.00