



2009 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38114

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Annual NAMI Memphis CIT Awards Banquet

Date: May 10th, 2012

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Hope Presbyterian Church

Address: 8500 Walnut Grove Road

Crisis Intervention Team

In 1988, the Memphis Police Department joined in partnership with the Memphis Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), mental health providers, and two local universities (the University of Memphis and the University of Tennessee) in organizing, training, and implementing a specialized unit of law enforcement officers trained to work with mentally ill individuals. This unique and creative alliance was established for the purpose of developing a more intelligent, understandable, and safe approach to mental crisis events. This community effort was the genesis of the Memphis Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). CIT is a community effort enjoining both the police and the community together for common goals of safety, understanding, and service to the mentally ill and their families. It is these goals that the law enforcement agencies of Shelby County have embraced when adopting the CIT model.

The CIT is made up of officers who have volunteered for the specialized training. CIT officers are called upon to respond to crisis calls that present officers face-to-face with complex issues relating to mental illness. CIT officers also perform their regular duty assignment as patrol officers. The Memphis Police Department has approximately 225 CIT officers who participate in specialized training under the instructional supervision of mental health providers, family advocates, and mental health consumer groups. Due to the training, CIT officers can, with confidence, offer a more humane and calm approach. These officers maintain a 24 hour, seven day/week coverage. Over the years the CIT program has expanded beyond just the Memphis Police Department to all of the law enforcement agencies in Shelby County. The CIT Model has been instrumental in offering:

1. Special trained officers to respond immediately to crisis calls
2. Ongoing training of CIT officers at no expense to the City of Memphis
3. Establishments of partnerships of police, National Alliance on Mental Illness/Memphis, mental health providers, and mental health consumers.

As an innovative program, the CIT model encourages communities, families, law enforcement officers, and mental health professionals to act as a compass for consumers of mental illness. As a proactive program, CIT acts as a model committed to preventing tragic situations and finding "win-win" solutions for all persons concerned. A response to mentally ill crisis events must be immediate. The National Alliance on Mental Illness/Memphis and the law enforcement agencies of Shelby County agree that an "immediate response" is preferable to that of specialized mental health workers on call or a mobile crisis van response. By offering an immediate humane and calm approach, CIT officers reduce the likelihood of physical confrontations and enhance better patient care. As such, the CIT program is a beginning for the necessary adjustment that law enforcement must make from traditional police responses to a more humane treatment of individuals with mental illness.

Since the CIT program began in Memphis, the citizens and the criminal justice system of Memphis have experienced significant benefits of the program. Some of the benefits of the program are listed below.

- Crisis response is immediate
- Arrests and use of force has decreased
- Underserved consumers are identified by officers and provided with care
- Patient violence and use of restraints in the ER has decreased
- Officers are better trained and educated in verbal de-escalation techniques
- Officer's injuries during crisis events have declined
- Officer recognition and appreciation by the community has increased
- Less "victimless" crime arrests
- Decrease in liability for health care issues in the jail
- Cost savings

National advocates, such as The National Alliance on Mental Illness and The American Association of Suicidology have recognized the CIT program for distinguished service to the mentally ill. NAMI (Memphis) credits CIT with saving lives and preventing injuries, both for consumers and officers. Officer injury data has decreased by seven-fold since the program inception. University of Tennessee studies have shown that the CIT program has resulted in a decrease in arrests rates for the mentally ill, an impressive rate of diversion into the health care system, and a resulting low rate of mental illness in our jails. Most importantly, CIT officers give consumers a sense of dignity. This dignity generates a new respect and outlook on the police and the mental health systems.

This is the time of year we set aside for a special thanks to our Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officers from Memphis and Shelby County area by honoring them with the Annual NAMI Memphis CIT Awards Banquet. Please let us know if you would like to sponsor an officer and his family to attend. Sponsorship will be \$25.00 per officer/individual or \$100.00 for an officer and their immediate family. Please contact us at (901) 725-0305 by telephone for reservations or mail the reservation request shown below to NAMI Memphis, 2009 Lamar Avenue-Suite 200, Memphis, Tennessee 38114. Please fill out the form below with your check for your reservations before May 1st, 2012. NAMI Memphis appreciates all its members and supporters, and we look forward to seeing you at the banquet. If you are making your sponsorship for a specific officer don't forget to notify them of your sponsorship, or please provide us with contact information so that we may contact them for you.

NAME for reservations	Number attending	Number of Persons sponsored	Total	Total amount enclosed
				\$

Please make checks payable to: NAMI Memphis

Contact information: _____