

**Crisis Intervention Training: Fairfax Implementation Facts**  
May 5, 2015 BOS Human Services Committee

**Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) – Memphis Model**

- The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is a well-documented and successful model of pre-booking jail diversion designed to improve the outcomes of first responder interactions with people experiencing acute episodes of mental illness.
- The trained CIT first responder is skilled at recognizing and de-escalating crises involving people with mental illness, while bringing an element of understanding and compassion to difficult situations.
- The goal of the CIT program is to provide safe intervention by first responders in order to reduce instances of restraint, prevent incarceration of people with mental illness, and to provide individuals with appropriate treatment in the community.

**History of CIT in Fairfax:**

- Training began in Fairfax in 2006 (3 day training).
- Joint collaboration between Fairfax law enforcement and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB).
- In 2011, transitioned into a week-long training.
  - The essential elements of this week-long training involved legal education, education about mental health, substance abuse, and intellectual disabilities, didactic role plays, and crisis intervention skill training.
  - The initial week-long training had a majority of the required essential elements of the Memphis Model, but there were a few areas where the training needed to change to meet the necessary requirements to qualify for dollars from the state.

**Number of Officers Trained in CIT:**

- There are currently 1336 Fairfax County police officers
- 36% or 476 of those 1336 officers have attended prior CIT training
- 43% or 397 of the 925 patrol officers have attended prior CIT training
- 36 Sheriff Deputies have attended prior CIT training

**Status of New CIT Model:**

- April 2015 representatives of public safety first responder agencies and the Fairfax-Falls Church CSB revised the Fairfax training model to be in compliance with state CIT requirements.
- CIT “Train the Trainer” session has been scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>
  - 15 Staff from Fairfax County Police, the Sheriff’s office, the CSB, and Vienna police will be attending the Train the Trainer session.
- First new CIT Training fully compliant with the state model requirements has been scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>
  - Max class size for CIT is 25.
- Working through on-going training details with the state to ensure fidelity with the required elements.

- Investigating other avenues to expand capacity of numbers of first responders trained across Public Safety and the ADC.
- Exploring opportunities to align efforts with NACo's recently launched initiative "Stepping Up: A National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails"

**Benefit of Moving to Memphis Model as Endorsed by the State:**

- Fairfax County now eligible for CSB application for funding for Assessment Site (aka "Drop Off"; subject of CSB BOS Admin Item 4/28/15), which presumes sufficient capacity of CIT-trained first responders in the Memphis Model.