


Course Announcement

To: All Law Enforcement and Correctional Agencies

From: John C. Moses
Director of Criminal Justice 

Date: November 16, 2023

Re: **Crisis Intervention Team Training**
CJA098-5000
MPCTC Approval #: P#46938 / C#18482 / S# pending (40 hours)

January 22 to 26, 2023

Location: Wor-Wic Community College
Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy
Hazel Center, Room 302
32000 Campus Drive
Salisbury, MD 21804
410-572-8750

Dates & Times: Monday, January 22 to Friday, January 26
7:45 am to 5:00 pm

Fee: Paid for by CIT grant.

Reservations: Email requests to escjaregistration@worwic.edu
(This course is only open to agencies located in Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties)

A person experiencing a mental health crisis presents some of the most intricate, dangerous, and unstable conditions that a law enforcement officer may encounter. This course is to help alleviate the problem by providing law enforcement personnel with training in how to handle a person safely and compassionately in a mental health crisis.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers are trained to identify when someone may be experiencing a mental health crisis and adapt strategies for those individuals. This approach has been proven to dramatically decrease the risk of injuries or death to both officers and people with mental illnesses, and it also reduces the number of repeat calls.

The Memphis Police Department pioneered CIT in 1988 after the police shooting of a young man who had a mental illness. The Memphis Police Department, city administration, people with mental illnesses and their families worked together to change law enforcement crisis services to increase safety, understanding and dignity. Twenty-two years later, the CIT model has spread to hundreds of cities and counties around the country and is now being recognized internationally as well.

The training promotes the use of verbal de-escalation skills before using force when confronting a mental health crisis. CIT training also gives officers the tools they need to understand what someone in a mental health crisis may be experiencing and to direct someone in crisis to appropriate care.

This training also includes Mental Health First Aid which teaches a 5-step action plan encompassing the skills, resources, and knowledge to help an individual in crisis connect with appropriate professional, peer, and self-help care. Students learn the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and, most importantly, teaches individuals how to help someone in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge.

This program provides the foundation necessary to promote community and statewide solutions to assist individuals with a mental illness. The CIT Model reduces both stigma and the need for further involvement with the criminal justice system. 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.

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe the benefits of CIT.
2. Define Mental Disorder.
3. Recognize behavioral indicators for a person who is experiencing depression or anxiety disorders, non-suicidal self-injury or a panic attack and may be in crisis.
4. Recognize behavioral indicators for a person with symptoms of a psychotic disorder or a related crisis.
5. Discuss psychopharmacology as it relates to medications prescribed and prominent side effects in persons with a mental illness.
6. Understand the significance of and uses of selected verbal and non-verbal intervention approaches when encountering an individual in mental health crisis.
7. Understand how to communicate calmly and effectively with a person experiencing a mental health crisis that is psychotic in nature or a non-psychotic basis.
8. Discuss negotiation skills to work towards resolution while establishing rapport and offering reassurance.
9. Review and understand the role of the Mental Health First Aider.
10. Describe and demonstrate the Mental Health First Aid Action Plan (ALGEE).
11. Understand and assess the impact of traumatic events and mental health.

This course is designed to meet requirements as mandated by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions and to meet the annual in-service requirements.

Class Size: Restricted size, seating is limited.

Attendance: You must attend the entire class to receive in-service credit.

Dress Code:

To maintain a professional appearance, all in-service officers/staff must follow the prescribed dress code to be admitted to any training held at the Academy.

- Uniform of the day recommended.
- Shirt with a collar—**No** t-shirts or tank tops
- Docker style pants, BDU's or suit—**No** shorts or jeans
- Full shoe with socks—**No** sandals

Firearms—All officers wearing a handgun on campus in plain view MUST also wear his/her badge in plain view.

Failure to Adhere to the Dress Code

Academy attendees will be denied admittance to the classroom or range and a report will be sent to the Chief/Sheriff/Warden/Director, stating the reasons the officer/staff was not permitted to attend the training session.



How to reserve a seat:

- Complete the ESCJA Reservation Form (pdf file attached to this email)
- Type, do not handwrite, required information onto form.
- “Save” and email saved file to escjaregistration@worwic.edu

You will be notified if your seat is confirmed or if you have been placed on standby.