THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AND OHIO CIT PROGRAMS

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The Attorney General's Criminal Justice and Mental Health Task Force Quarterly Meeting
10/23/2026

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (CJ CCoE)

- Housed within the Psychiatry Department at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED)
- Founded in May of 2001 and fully grant funded
- Works closely with the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health (ODBH), the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Ohio (NAMI), the Ohio office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), the Ohio Attorney General Task Force on Criminal Justice and Mental Illness, Peg's Foundation, and other partners across the state

THE MISSION AND GOALS OF THE CJ CCoE

- To encourage communities throughout Ohio to forge collaborative relationships between mental health and criminal justice
- To have each county in Ohio develop an array of programs that will divert people with mental disorders from jail and ensure that those who need treatment for mental illness have access to it
- Identify the best mental health practices for successful diversion from the criminal justice system
- Work with partners across Ohio to develop and provide technical assistance and guidance
- To serve as a resource to Ohio ADAMH Boards and their local partners

CJ CCoE AREAS OF WORK

- Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Programs
- Sequential Intercept Mapping
- Substance Use Deflection Initiatives

WHAT ARE CIT PROGRAMS IN OHIO?

- A continuous community partnership between agencies representing law enforcement, mental health service boards and service providers, advocacy, and those with lived experience and their families.
- Designed to facilitate better outcomes when law enforcement is called to interact with a person with severe mental illness (SMI) in crisis.
- Align and integrate local service and crisis response systems to minimize reliance on law enforcement and the criminal justice system and favoring more appropriate alternatives whenever possible.

THE GOALS OF OHIO CIT PROGRAMS

- Improves the safety and outcomes of everyone in crisis situations where law enforcement interacts with a person in crisis
- Deflects persons in crisis from the criminal justice system to treatment alternatives whenever possible
- Increases the understanding of, access to, and responsiveness by the local crisis response system
- Transforms the local crisis response system to use law enforcement officers as first responders only when there is an immediate or imminent threat to safety or a serious a serious criminal concern

PUTTING CIT PROGRAMS INTO PRACTICE



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GENERAL INFORMATION ON OHIO CIT PROGRAMS

- Currently there are 45 CIT programs across Ohio
- Each CIT program has at least one CIT Coordinator from either Law Enforcement, Mental Health, or Advocacy
- All CIT programs have a CIT Steering Committee
- All of them are conducting CIT Patrol of Training
- All of them have a recognition and honors process in place to recognize their CIT trained officers and partners

MORE DATA ON OHIO CIT PROGRAMS

- Data Collection of Law Enforcement Mental Health Crisis Interactions
  - 32 CIT programs collect or track crisis call interactions
- Streamlined Mental Health Service Linkage by Law Enforcement
  - 20 CIT programs have a process or digital system to link individuals to mental health services
  - The remaining 25 still provide resources to the individuals they interact with experiencing a mental health crisis and continue to work with their local partners to develop innovative options for their communities

WHAT ARE SOME SPECIFIC THINGS CIT PROGRAMS ARE DOING IN OHIO

- Montgomery County is currently working to integrate with each law enforcement agency's criminal justice system to provides mental health service linkage to individuals experiencing mental health crisis. Provide a more automatic and streamlined service linkage.
- Knox & Licking Counties have developed a referral system for mental health linkage for individuals in crisis. It has been promoted to both law enforcement and the community.
- Medina County for the last few years has instituted an initiative where clinicians ride with officers. This initiative has fostered relationship building between law enforcement and mental health. This has paved the way for better understanding of resources for service linkage and fostered a stronger partnership between the systems.

THE OHIO CIT SUPPORT & EXPANSION PROJECT & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

EVENTS & FUNDING

- The Annual Ohio CIT Conference
- Various Targeted CIT & Crisis Response Trainings
- Bi-annual meetings for Ohio CIT Program Coordinators
- CJ CCoE Collaboration board
- Scholarships to support Law enforcement officer participation in CIT training
- Stipends to support the participation of people with lived experience in CIT training
- Mini-grants to offset the cost for programs to host a CIT training course
- Ohio CIT Support & Expansion Project Subawards

GUIDANCE & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Virtual Technical Assistance (TA) Sessions (Live and recorded: posted on the CJ CCoE website)
- Targeted TA with Program Coordinators
- Published Guidance
- Ohio CIT Program Peer Reviews
- Core Elements of Ohio CIT Programs (version 3 2026)
- Operational Framework for Ohio CIT Corrections Programs
- Ohio CIT Coordinator & Partner Email LISTSERV

OHIO CIT SUPPORT & EXPANSION PROJECT SUBAWARD AND OHIO CIT PEER REVIEW

- The Ohio CIT Support & Expansion Project Subawards and The Ohio CIT Peer Reviews are both CJ CCoE projects that are designed to help CIT Coordinators support and expand their CIT programs. Both are funded in part by ODBH & OCJS.
  - The subawards offer direct funding to help programs with projects to either sustain the program or expand it.
  - The Peer Review is a process where CIT Programs submit operational program information to a panel consisting of the CJ CCoE Law Enforcement liaisons and a group of peer reviewers (other CIT Program Coordinators). The information is then reviewed through the lens of the Ohio CIT Core Elements and discussed between all parties to better understand where the program is in their overall development and what their best next steps should be.

GROWING AND SUSTAINING CIT PROGRAMS

- Increasing law enforcement participation
- Expanding Mental Health Service linkage between law enforcement and mental health
- Supporting the appropriate use of the local Emergency Hospitalization process
- Strengthening Ohio CIT Program Steering Committees
- Advancing Ohio CIT Program evaluation

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- The Peg's Foundation

Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice, Ohio Department of Behavioral Health, SAMHSA, or HSS, and should not be construed as such.

ANY QUESTIONS?

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