

Key Partners for Your CIT Program

When building support for your CIT Program and determining who should be represented on your steering committee, look at all the systems and organizations in your community that have a stake in resolving issues around mental health crisis. A variety of stakeholders can add strength to your program, but CIT has a few core partners that are important to include in your efforts. Below are a few of the more common stakeholders involved in a CIT Program. Use the information to generate your own list of stakeholders to involve in your efforts.

Law Enforcement Agencies – There may be multiple law enforcement agencies operating in your community. Many communities have both a sheriff’s department and a police department that share responsibilities serving the community. If there are multiple agencies in your community, reach out and engage both agencies. Including law enforcement is central to your CIT program since you will need their commitment to providing training to their officers, as well as changing their policies and procedures.

Mental Health Providers – This can include individual practitioners, a community health clinic, the behavioral health department embedded in the local government, or a crisis response organization.

Mental Health Advocates – NAMI members are tireless advocates for mental illness and are an essential stakeholder for CIT. Advocates bring to the lived experience of people with mental illness and their family members to the table. Identify and contact your local NAMI to include them in your effort.

Hospitals – Hospital emergency rooms are often one of the locations where law enforcement officers take individuals in crisis. Including representatives from hospitals is important to ensure smooth coordination with law enforcement during a crisis.

Emergency Services – In some communities’ EMS or the fire department is dispatched to a mental health crisis. While CIT assumes a law enforcement response to most mental health crisis calls, coordinating with fire and EMS helps so that all first responders share information and resources.

Public Officials – Mayor’s offices, governors, city managers, and county commissioners, can provide political clout to your program. Programs are sometimes initiated out of these offices because of a political initiative or funding stream. These community leaders can also help bring stakeholders to the table

For more information visit our website at www.nami.org/cit or email us at cit@nami.org.