

Crisis Intervention Training Overview Presentation

James Lancaster, LMFT

December 9, 2024



Introduction

Purpose of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT): Enhancing collaboration between law enforcement and behavioral health professionals to improve outcomes for individuals in crisis.

Overview of Training Objectives:

- Recognize signs of mental health crises.
- Understand de-escalation techniques.
- Learn about resources and referral pathways.

Target Audience for Training: Law enforcement, first responders, and mental health professionals, and the community.

Duration of Training: Typically, 8-40 hours depending on the depth of the program.



Frontline Response

- CIT and co-responder models have a positive and measurable effect on individuals in crises by minimizing exposure to the legal system through collaborative alternatives.
- This includes training to better de-escalate intense or emotional crisis situations without using force.
- The success of the model depends on strong collaborative partnerships between the police, local service providers, and advocates to provide comprehensive community-based responses to individuals in crisis.



Working Together

Law Enforcement Officers: Experienced officers share practical knowledge on handling crisis situations, emphasizing de-escalation techniques and safety protocols.

Mental Health Professionals: Experts who offer insights into various mental health conditions, treatment approaches, and effective communication strategies.

Individuals with Lived Experience: People who have personally navigated mental health challenges, along with their family members, provide firsthand perspectives on their experiences and interactions with law enforcement.

Community Service Providers: Representatives from local organizations discuss available resources and support systems for individuals in crisis.





Mental Health Basics

Understanding Mental Illness:

- Common disorders encountered in the field (e.g., schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, PTSD).
- Symptoms and behaviors associated with mental health conditions.

Substance Use and Co-occurring Disorders:

- Impact on behavior and crisis situations.
- Tips for differentiating between mental health and substance-induced crises.



Crisis Response

Recognizing Crisis Situations:

- Key indicators (verbal, physical, and environmental).
- Situations that escalate risk (e.g., suicidal ideation, psychosis).

Stages of a Crisis:

• Baseline, escalation, crisis, recovery.





De-Escalation Techniques

Principles of De-escalation:

- Maintaining safety for everyone.
- Communicating effectively under stress.

Verbal and Nonverbal Strategies:

- Active listening.
- Tone, body language, and empathy.

Practice Scenarios:

- Role-plays with examples of challenging interactions.
- Feedback and discussion.



Legal and Ethical Considerations

• Rights of Individuals in Crisis:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) implications.
- Handling involuntary holds (e.g., 5150 in California).

Use of Force Policies:

Balancing safety with the least restrictive measures.





Community Resources and Partnerships

Behavioral Health Services:

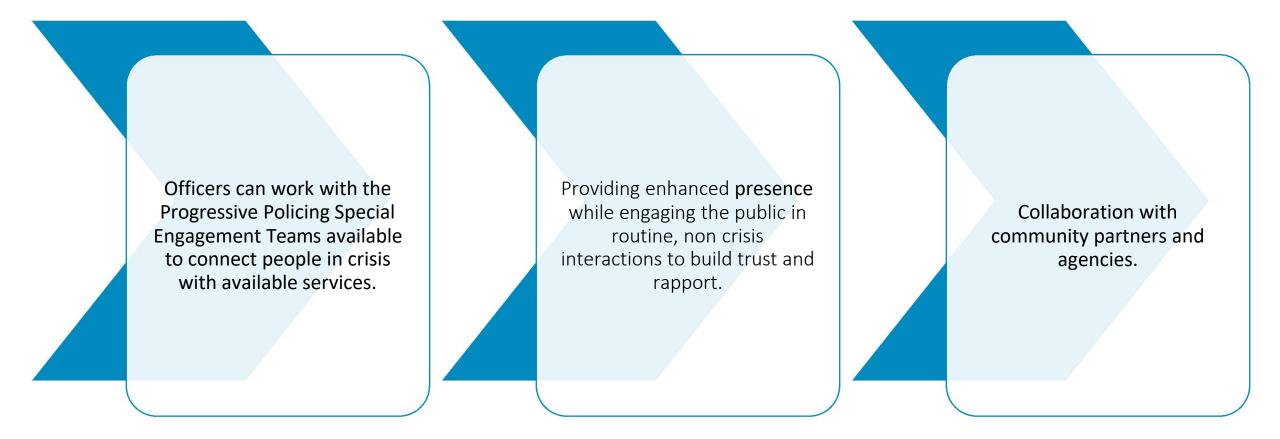
- Referral options for crisis stabilization.
- Hotlines, mobile crisis teams, and outpatient services.

Collaboration Strategies:

- Building relationships between law enforcement and mental health providers.
- Importance of ongoing communication.



Addressing Quality of Life Concerns







Program Outcomes and Metrics

Impact of CIT:

- Reducing arrests and improving crisis outcomes.
- Decreasing use-of-force incidents.

Tracking and Reporting:

- Data collection and success stories.
- Importance of continuous improvement.



Conclusion and Next Steps

Key Takeaways:

- Empathy and understanding as tools for effective crisis resolution.
- Value of interdisciplinary collaboration.

Commitment to Ongoing Training:

• Regular refreshers and advanced courses to enhance the knowledge of CIT coordination with community stakeholders.



CIT Training Inspiring Quote

"The best way to predict the future is to create it." – Peter Drucker

