

CIT in Henrico County:

Henrico County's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program is unique in the nation in that it includes partners from the Henrico County Division of Fire along with Henrico County Division of Police, Sheriff's Office, Mental Health and Developmental Services, and local advocacy groups such as National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Virginia Organization of Consumers Asserting Leadership (VOCAL), Substance Abuse and Addiction Recovery Alliance (SAARA) local private hospitals, and other community stakeholders.

Planning:

- Throughout the years, key stakeholders in the community aggressively sought a solution to improve the system of care offered to those in crisis in Henrico County. This partnership included local judges, magistrates, doctors, advocates, lawyers and staff from area hospitals, community corrections, probation and parole, and jails. Individual issues were effectively addressed but there remained a concern about the system of care. After several years of research about the problems, possible solutions, the strengths of the community and the needs, CIT was determined to be a viable model to ensure effective care was given promptly to those in crisis in Henrico County.
- Henrico's public safety leaders, mental health, NAMI, VOCAL, SAARA and others worked collaboratively to begin Henrico's CIT program in 2008. The inclusion of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel in the Henrico CIT model was deemed critical to fully attend to the needs of the citizens of Henrico County.

Training:

- As with any CIT program, the Basic Training is a key component. Henrico County's leaders have devoted significant resources to ensure an aggressive training schedule that would quickly build a cadre of CIT trained responders in the community.
- Over 361 responders from fire, police, sheriff, communications, mental health and community corrections have been CIT trained since the inception of training in June 2009.
- While each class has been limited in size to provide quality instruction, the team has committed to holding classes every other month for the past two years (thirteen to date.)
- Four train the trainer classes have been offered graduating a total of 50 instructors.
- In 2012 six additional trainings are scheduled.

CIT Components:

- Area stakeholders continue to have a strong presence in Henrico's CIT program. Several meetings each year are held with members of this community to ensure the program is successfully meeting the needs of area citizens.
- Another innovative component of Henrico's CIT program, the Mobile Response Team (MRT), was developed in response to an unmet need in the community. The MRT is a unique partnership of CIT trained responders and mental health clinicians that respond to citizens in crisis as well as provide follow up care.
- The CIT steering committee, which meets monthly, ensures that all decisions for the program are made as a group. The inclusion of all three public safety agencies as equal partners along with mental health in the Henrico CIT model ensures quality care in our community. High risk and complex situations may be assessed immediately by all four of the partnering agencies to ensure community and citizen safety.

Support for other jurisdictions:

- Meetings have been held with area leaders and training has been given to staff from other jurisdictions including the University of Richmond Police Department, the Albemarle Police Department, the New Kent Fire/EMS Department and Sheriff's Office, Chesterfield Police and Mental Health Departments, Ashland Police, Hanover Fire Department, the Richmond Police Department and Sheriff's Office, and the Richmond International Airport Police Department.
- Police personnel from other jurisdictions including J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, as well as volunteer rescue personnel, will be included in upcoming trainings.