

Crisis Intervention Team

Bucks CIT



A Message from the Co-Chairs

Web Sites to Check Out:

- www.buckscit.org
- www.citinternational.org
- www.nami.org
- www.bucks.pa.networkofcare.org
- www.lenapevf.org
- www.pennfoundation.org
- www.pennselmhmc.org
- www.aldie.org

After each 40 hour CIT training, we receive a success story within a week from a new graduate who has used the skills learned in the training successfully on the job. Typically we hear directly from the officer, but sometimes it is from crisis worker telling us how the training made a difference in the life of an individual with behavioral health needs. Our last training ended on Friday January 18, 2013 and by the following Wednesday, we had a success story of the Perkasio Police Department assisting a woman in accessing outpatient care at Penn Foundation. This speaks to the usefulness and applicability of the training. Officers can return to their department and put it into immediate use. Our goals for this program are three-fold. First is the safety and security of the officer, consumer and family members. Second, is better access to care and services that the individual needs and last is reducing the stigma associated with behavioral health needs. Unfortunately, hurricane

Sandy was not kind to our training schedule. We were forced to reschedule our November training for January. However we are happy to announce we completed the training and now have an additional 27 individuals certified in Bucks CIT. We expect to host the next 40 hour training in the fall. If your department would like to host an introduction to CIT at your place, please contact us and we can make arrangements for this as well. We will have future 6 hour introductory classes at the training center. It is important to note the introduction does not certify officers as a CIT Officer, it just gives them an overview of the program. The CIT Taskforce continues to be one of the highlights in both of our careers. We are lucky to have such a dedicated group of individuals to work with and look forward to another successful year. Should you have any questions or suggestions regarding CIT in Bucks County, do not hesitate to contact us.



Sergeant Andrew Aninsman & Sharon Curran

We would like to wish you and your family a safe and successful 2013!

Sincerely,
Sgt. Andrew Aninsman,
Bensalem PD
Sharon Curran,
Lenape Valley Foundation

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**Bucks County
Goal:**
**At least 20% of all
Bucks County
Patrol Officers
trained in CIT**

Success Story

*One in five people
suffer from mental
illness; approximately
57.7 million
Americans per year*

I would like to recognize Corporal Wojnar from Lower Southampton Police Department. I reached out to him for assistance with an elderly woman in our senior citizen outreach program. She struggles with paranoia and believes that people are coming into her home. We asked a great deal of Corporal Wojnar and he was very willing to offer his assistance and expertise. He spent over an hour in the lady's home attempting to reassure her as well as offering her ideas to secure her home and remain safe. He was extremely compassionate and offered a sympathetic ear to a woman he observed was truly in distress. I want to personally thank Corporal Wojnar for providing her with hope and for truly putting her mind at ease. I look forward to working with him and the Lower Southampton Police Department in the future.

Submitted by Kristina Sperry, Lenape Valley Foundation Case Manager

Bucks CIT Class #7

Class participants from: Adult Probation and Parole, NAMI, Drexel University Security
Police Departments: New Britain Township, Northampton Township, Pennridge Regional, Chalfont Borough, Bristol Township, Buckingham Township, Quakertown Borough, Richland Township, Solebury Township, Warrington Township, Warwick Township, and Lower Southampton





CIT and NAMI partnership:

This spring is a very busy time for NAMI of Bucks County. We have a new family support group forming in Doylestown and continue with our family group in Newtown, as well as our Connection group for people living in recovery from a mental illness. All of our Signature Education programs begin at the end of February or the beginning of March. We will offer Family to Family in Doylestown and Newtown and our Peer to Peer class will run in Perkasi and Warminster. We have also begun a new education program called Ending the Silence where we go into area schools and teach a 9th grade health class about mental illness and stigma. Our **Greater Philadelphia NAMI Walks**, a major fundraising and awareness event, will take place on May 18, 2013 at Montgomery County Community College. We would love to have a Bucks County CIT Team walking with us. Also new this spring is an art show sponsored by NAMI Bucks and Montgomery Counties and Brook Glen Behavioral Hospital in May. If you would like any further information about any of our programs, please call 1-866-399-6264 or check out our website at www.namibuckspa.org

Join Us:

*CIT International
Conference
Hartford, Connecticut
October 14-16, 2013
www.citinternational.org*

Bucks CIT Class #8

Class participants from:

Bucks County Sheriff's Department ,
Bucks County Rangers, Adult Probation,
Radio Room, Doylestown Hospital Security,
Bucks County Community College Security,
Bucks County Department of Corrections

Police Departments: Doylestown Borough,
New Hope Borough, Hilltown Township,
Buckingham, Yardley Borough, Falls Township,
Northampton Township, Plumstead, Penridge Regional,
Richland Township, Perkasi Borough



Curriculum Update



Curriculum Update by,
Nicole Wolf
Lenape Valley Foundation

Top 10 Reasons Why You Should Take the 40 Hour CIT Certification Course:

10. The Consumer Perceptive Module- Roundtable discussion with individuals who have mental illness and explain living with the illness.
9. The Veteran Perspective Module- Roundtable discussion with veterans about their experiences with PTSD and suggestions for working with Vets in crisis.
8. The Bucks CIT Task Force has been invited to speak at 2 International Conferences, 1 National Conference and 1 State Conference in the past 2 years.
7. The Task Force stays current by keeping up with the latest information from CIT programs across the country on what works and how to support our CIT officers.
6. The instructors are experts in their respective areas and actively work with individuals in their fields of expertise (i.e. mental health, substance abuse, Alzheimer's, hoarding, PTSD, etc.).
5. There is something for every cop, regardless of how long you've been on the job or what specialty trainings you've had.
4. You will get FREE breakfast and lunch the whole week...the most popular is the breakfast stromboli!
3. You will learn about local resources and be given a Wallet Card with the contact numbers for the most commonly used services.
2. The testimonials speak for themselves:
 - I came to the class not really looking forward to it, I left very impressed and feel I learned a lot.
 - I wish I had this training 25 years ago.
1. You will be given practical strategies to employ when you encounter an individual with behavioral health needs.

The Synergy Project Finds Sustainment

The Synergy Project is a street outreach program of Valley Youth House located on N. York Road in Warminster. This program provides help to run away and homeless youths age 21 and under. These youth are some of the most vulnerable individuals living in Bucks County. On October 1, 2012 the Synergy Project had an emergency meeting to discuss the loss of their federal funding that ended on September 30th, leaving them with a \$5,000 deficit. Losing the federal funding put this program in jeopardy of closing. At this meeting, Valley Youth House presented a clear commitment to operate the project for additional time despite the lack of funding. The annual operational budget for the Synergy Project is \$96,000 annually.

Now, there is good news! The Synergy Project has found support and funding from the county and various supporters to the tune of about \$60,500. This is still shy of about \$30,000 and they are awaiting additional funding sources to fill that total. It is with great confidence that the Synergy Project is reporting they are not going anywhere and they will continue to provide services.

If you or anyone you know would like to help. In addition to monetary funding, any non-money/in-kind donations will help reduce the overall Synergy Project operational costs required to support the program. Numerous items that can be donated are: emergency housing, rooms, host home lodging, low cost motel rooms, clothing/personal items, toiletries, gift cards, food, nonperishable's, survival supplies like blankets, sleeping bags, tents, tarps, flashlights, bus and cab fares, gas cards, vehicle repairs, printing and advertising. All of these items contribute to lowering their expenses. Donations can be made to Synergy Project in care of Valley Youth House and additional information can be obtained by calling the Street Outreach Cell, Shane Burroughs at 215-990-3962 or the Youth Shelter at 215-442-9760 (24 hrs). Any support for this program is welcomed.

Success Story

Lenape Valley Foundation Crisis Workers and Lower Bucks Emergency Room Staff wish to commend CIT Officer Forcina of the Bensalem Township Police Department for the way he handled difficult cases brought to LBH ER on two separate occasions. Officer Forcina went above and beyond in order to calm the consumers while displaying concern for the safety of staff. A direct result of his thoroughness and attention to detail eliminated the potential for violence toward everyone involved. We greatly appreciate and value the extra time needed for these cases. Such professionalism is commendable and admirable. We believe Officer Forcina is an asset to his department and the community. We look forward to maintaining the positive working relationship between, crisis, and medical professionals. Thank you for outstanding service.

-Collectively submitted by Lenape Valley Foundation Crisis Workers and Lower Bucks Hospital ER staff



Data Collection

CIT is a cooperative partnership of law enforcement, mental health service providers, consumers, families and advocates. The program is revealing terrific outcomes as shown in the success stories above. Recently selected Bucks County departments have begun collecting data regarding the success of CIT officers in the community. Our goal is to broaden the scope and understanding of issues involving law enforcement and behavioral health consumers. Soon we should have Bucks County data to report on!

More than 36,000 individuals die by suicide each year. That's like losing the population of Green Bay, Wisconsin every three years.

Role Plays in Class #8



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The mission of the Bucks County CIT Task Force:

To promote collaboration between Bucks County Law Enforcement, Behavioral Health Organizations, Behavioral Health Advocates, and County Government, and to provide a forum for effective problem solving. To serve as a vehicle for consumer, family member and community input into the Bucks County CIT training process. To develop a CIT training program that will be incorporated into the programs of every Bucks County Law Enforcement agency.

CIT...more than just training!

**We are on the web:
www.buckscit.org**

Meet the Bucks County CIT Taskforce

Co-chairs:

Bensalem Twp. Police
Lenape Valley Foundation

Sgt. Andrew Aninsman
Sharon Curran

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scurran@buckscit.org

Taskforce:

Lenape Valley Foundation
NAMI
NAMI
Next Step Recovery
Northampton Twp. Police
Northampton Twp. Police
Penn Foundation
B.C MH/DP
Lenape Valley Foundation
Behavioral Health System
Pennridge Regional Police

Nicole Wolf
Debbie Moritz
Charles Bechtel
Ed Donahue
Det. Chuck Pinkerton
Ofc. Steve Kingsdorf
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