

A Multicounty Evaluation of CIT in Pennsylvania

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Presentation to the Statewide CIT Meeting
March 24, 2015

A Multi-county Evaluation of CIT in Pennsylvania

- **Ongoing evaluation of CIT in several PA counties, funded by PCCD**
- **Three Aims**
 - **Assess the fidelity of several ongoing CIT programs in PA to the originally designed Memphis model**
 - **Analyze the effectiveness of CIT programs in PA in altering officer behavior during encounters with individuals with mental illness**
 - **Examine the characteristics of police response, other than CIT, that are associated with effective interventions**
- **Methods**
 - **Review training schedule and materials**
 - **Review 3000 police incident reports from 4 counties**

The Issues

- **CIT designed to be altered to meet the local needs**
- **This means there could be a lot of variability in how people design their CIT “system” and in the training**
- **To date, haven’t really known if and how much variability there is (or isn’t) in training**
- **We also don’t know if this training variability matters in terms of outcomes**

Determining “Essential Elements”

- **Publically available documents from 4 states**
 - **Tennessee (Memphis Model)**
 - **Ohio**
 - **Florida**
 - **Virginia**
- **Developed a list of elements across all 4 states**
 - **Essential (core) Elements**
 - **Desired Elements**
- **A total of 83 elements**

CIT Essential Element Matrix (sample items)

Element	Memphis	VA	FL	OH
MH community involved in training	X	X	X	X
In-service/advanced CIT offered for those officer who completed the full course	X	/	X	X
Officers volunteer for training	X	X	X	
Cultural Diversity is the focus of training for at least 2 hours		X		

X=essential /=desired

Determining Fidelity Score

- **Step 1: Rated the presence of 83 items in the PA counties**
 - 2: item is present
 - 1: partially present
 - 0: not present
- **Step 2: Applied a weight to each item**
 - Items that were an essential element in all 4 states given highest weight
 - Items that were only mentioned by 1 state given the lowest weight
 - Presence value (0-2) X Weight (2-7) = item score

CIT Essential Element Matrix

(sample items)

Element	Mem- phis	VA	FL	OH	Weight
MH community involved in training	X	X	X	X	7
In-service/advanced CIT offered for those officer who completed the full course	X	/	X	X	6
Officers volunteer for training	X	X	X		5
Cultural Diversity is the focus of training for at least 2 hours		X			2

X=essential /=desired

Essential Elements: Present in all 4 PA Counties

- **Training partnerships involving law enforcement and mental health professionals, consumers and families**
- **Community buy-in**
- **Patrol officers being trained and at least annual trainings**
- **Training that includes use of didactics and lectures**

Essential Elements: Present in all 4 PA Counties

- **Training that includes modules on**
 - **D&A**
 - **Clinical issues**
 - **Co-occurring disorders**
 - **Developmental disabilities**
 - **Family/consumer perspectives**
 - **Overview of special populations**
 - **PTSD**
 - **Civil Commitment/legal proceedings**
 - **De-escalation skill training**
 - **Roleplaying , based on real life experiences**
 - **Overview of community resources**
 - **Certificates of recognition/pin for officers**
 - **Evaluation of trainers/overall class**

Essential Elements: Not Present in any of the 4 PA Counties

- **Inter-agency agreements related to training**
- **Spending 2 hours on cultural diversity and 4 hours on officer liability and civil commitment**
- **Dispatcher training that includes experiential exercises, role playing and in-service training**
- **CIT for other groups (e.g. jail and custodial personnel, non-LE first responders)**

Next Steps

- **Our findings so far indicate**
 - **All 4 PA counties in the evaluation include a high number of essential items**
 - **There is some variability as expected**
- **Our next step, once incident reports are coded, we'll see if that variability is related to officer behavior**