



CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE

GENERAL POLICE ORDER



EFFECTIVE DATE:	CHAPTER: 5 – Field Investigations	PAGE: 1 of 2	NUMBER:
SUBJECT: CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM DEFINITIONS			
CHIEF:			

PURPOSE: To define terminology used in the Cleveland Division of Police Crisis Intervention Team policies.

DEFINITIONS:

Behavioral Health: Promotion of mental health, resilience and wellbeing; the treatment of mental and substance use disorders; and the support of those who experience and/or are in recovery from these conditions, along with their families and communities.

Co-Responder Team: A team that includes a Specialized Crisis Intervention Trained Officer and a behavioral health specialist that responds to incidents involving individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Crisis: A situation where an individual's safety and health are threatened by behavioral health challenges, to include mental illness, developmental disabilities, substance use, or overwhelming stressors. A crisis can involve an individual's perception or experience of an event or situation as an intolerable difficulty that exceeds the individual's current resources and coping mechanisms and may include unusual stress in their life that renders them unable to function as they normally would, which may make them a danger to self or others.

Crisis Incident: An incident involving individuals who are experiencing a crisis that could cause the individual to harm themselves or others through erratic behavior.

Crisis Intervention: The emergency and temporary care given to an individual in crisis with the purpose of returning the individual to their level of pre-crisis functioning.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT): Specially trained officers in crisis intervention.

Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator (CIT Coordinator): An officer of CDP at the rank of Captain or above who is responsible for CDP's CIT Program. The CIT Coordinator is the point of contact between all behavioral health and crisis intervention issues involving the CDP and the community, including crisis intervention training, reporting, and policies.

Crisis Intervention Team Program (CIT Program): A partnership between police, mental and behavioral health agencies, advocates, and the community that seeks to achieve the common goals of safety, understanding, and service to individuals in crisis, those with behavioral health issues, and their families.

Crisis Intervention Team Sergeant (CIT Sergeant): Assist the CIT Coordinator by being the liaison between all behavioral health and crisis intervention issues involving the CDP and the community, including crisis intervention training, reporting and policies.

PAGE: 2 of 2	SUBJECT: CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM DEFINITIONS	NUMBER: 5.11.02
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Crisis Intervention Team Data Collection Form (CIT Data Collection Form): A data form that gathers required crisis intervention information for CDP and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board to track and assess gaps in CIT responses and training. This is primarily done by using a software program that is available electronically. See Attachment A.

Cuyahoga County Diversion Center: An alternative housing and treatment center for persons who are requesting help with assistance with their behavioral health, or non-violent misdemeanor offenders suffering from mental illness and/or substance use. Services can include assessment, medical evaluation, case management, counseling, medications, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), withdrawal management (detox), NAMI educational groups, and referrals and linkage to other community services.

d/Deaf: Lowercase “d” deaf refers to the physical condition of having hearing loss and/or an inability to hear with one’s ears. Uppercase “D” deaf is used to describe people who identify as culturally Deaf and are actively engaged with the Deaf community.

Developmental Disability: A disability that is characterized by an identified condition such as Autism, Spectrum Disorder, or Intellectual Disability Disorder that results in functional limitations in areas such as self-care, language, learning, mobility, self-direction, comprehension, capacity for independent living and economic self-sufficiency.

Mental Health Response Advisory Committee (MHRAC): An advisory Committee to the Department of Public Safety and CDP on behavioral health issues and crisis intervention. The committee is made up of representatives of behavioral health and social service agencies, criminal justice agencies, advocacy groups, community members, and members of CDP. The MHRAC was developed through a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Cleveland, Department of Public Safety and the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County.

Mental Illness: A disorder of thought, mood, memory, emotion, perception, or orientation that significantly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality or the ability to address basic life necessities, and requires care and treatment for the health, safety, or recovery of the individual or the safety of others. Some individuals with mental illness may have a dual diagnosis that includes another condition such as drug and/or alcohol addiction. Mental illness conditions may be characterized by impairment of an individual’s normal cognitive, emotional, or behavioral functioning, and caused by social, psychological, biochemical, genetic, or other factors.

Specialized CIT Officer: A voluntary, specially trained, patrol officer who has demonstrated a desire and ability to work with people in crisis situations and who has been selected to be a member of the Crisis Intervention Team.

Trauma-Informed: A general understanding of what trauma and awareness is and an awareness of what trauma is and an awareness of the impact it can have on juvenile development and behavior. Context plays a significant role in how individuals perceive and process traumatic events, whether acute or chronic, and how these exposures influence an individual’s response to later events. A trauma-informed approach involves four elements: 1) Realizing the prevalence of trauma; 2) recognizing the signs of trauma and how it affects individuals; 3) responding by putting this knowledge into practice; and 4) resisting or avoiding re-traumatization.

Youth: An individual under the age of 18.

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Policy Unit