

## CIT Memorandum of Understanding

Sample MOU between a County Mental Health Department and CIT Community Partners: Adapted from the North Carolina Five County Mental Health Authority MOU

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20xx, between \_\_\_\_\_ (name the law enforcement dept.), the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and \_\_\_\_\_ (name the mental health agency), hereafter referred to as Parties:

WHEREAS, the above-named Parties endeavor and agree to prevent—when possible—the arrest and incarceration of people with mental illness and effectively link these individuals to appropriate mental health treatment in the community:

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed in consideration of the mutual promises set forth herein that (name the responsible agency) CIT will emphasize the training of specially selected law enforcement officers with skills and knowledge about mental illness to respond to crisis situations involving people with mental illness.

The (name the responsible agency) and contracted providers will provide rapid assessment and referral to appropriate mental health community services and support for people with mental illness requiring law enforcement involvement. In addition, the Parties agree to work cooperatively to do the following:

- Recognize that CIT begins with law enforcement professionals who are the first on the scene and must make the right decisions for people with mental illness.
- Emphasize that CIT officers will be expeditiously afforded as much support as advocates, service providers, and the community can afford.
- Emphasize treatment rather than incarceration of people with mental illness.
- Decrease the proportion of people with mental illness in county jails.
- Prevent the inappropriate incarceration and/or criminalization of people with mental illness.
- Improve and minimize the turnaround time for law enforcement officers who have custody of a person suffering mental illness.
- Decrease officer injury rates.

- Decrease injury rates to persons experiencing a mental health crisis requiring law enforcement involvement.
- Increase law enforcement officers' knowledge about mental illness and skills in their interactions with people with mental illness.
- Provide training to selected law enforcement officers.
- Improve the relationships between mental health service providers and law enforcement departments.
- Participate in evaluation of the (name the responsible agency) CIT process, goals, and outcome measures.

This Agreement shall continue in effect from the date entered into for a period of one (1) year. Upon the expiration of said period, this Agreement shall be automatically renewed for an additional one (1) year term unless notice of termination is received by any party within thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of any term.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Law Enforcement Agency)

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name the responsible agency)  
Mental Health Authority