

Colonial Area CIT Partners

- Camp Perry Police
- Colonial Community Criminal Justice Board
- Colonial Behavioral Health
- Colonial Williamsburg
- Eastern State Hospital
- James City County Police
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
- Poquoson Police Department
- Riverside Doctors' Hospital Williamsburg
- Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
- Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail
- William and Mary Police
- Williamsburg-James City Sheriff's Office
- Williamsburg Police
- York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office



Colonial Area Crisis Intervention Team
473 McLaws Circle
Williamsburg, VA 23185



Serving:
James City County
City of Poquoson
City of Williamsburg
and York County

473 McLaws Circle
Williamsburg, VA 23185

757-253-4061

A program coordinated by
Colonial Behavioral Health

Colonial Area CIT

Crisis Intervention Teams are programs that bring together local stakeholders, including:

- Law enforcement officers
- Emergency dispatchers
- Mental health treatment providers
- Individuals receiving mental health services
- Hospitals
- Non-law enforcement first responders
- Family Advocates

Stakeholders collaborate to improve the multi-systemic response to persons experiencing behavioral health crises who come into contact with law enforcement first responders.

The program enhances community collaboration, develops effective infrastructure and provides outstanding training to improve criminal justice and mental health system response to individuals with mental health issues.

CIT represents a major step forward in acknowledging that mental illness is a disease - and recognizing the fact that arrest is not always an appropriate response to someone whose behavior is directly related to symptoms of their disease.

Goals

- To improve interactions between law enforcement and persons with mental illness.
- To prevent the inappropriate restraint, incarceration and stigmatization of persons with mental illness.
- To reduce injury to officers, family members and individuals in crisis.
- To link individuals with mental illness to appropriate treatment and resources in the community.
- To reduce concerns among family and friends of those with mental illness by knowing that there are specially trained officers that can de-escalate the situation.
- To reduce the stigma of mental illness by distinguishing the difference between symptoms of mental illness and crime.

Training

Success of the program depends on the willingness of officers to participate in an intensive training program which provides information on: signs and symptoms of mental illnesses; medication and treatment; suicide assessment and prevention; mental health issues in children and among the elderly; alcohol and drug assessments and issues; and de-escalation techniques.

This is achieved through classroom and role-rehearsal training with mental health providers, clients and advocates.

