

Crisis Intervention Team Approach Training  
by Jon Mangseth, Police Chief

During the week of February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, all the licensed St. Anthony Police Officers participated in Mental Health De-escalation Training. The training focused on responding to individuals in crises utilizing the Crises Intervention Team (CIT) Approach. The training was developed through the Mental Health Crises Response Institute and is a program of the Barbara Schneider Foundation. The training consisted of eight hours of classroom and integrated scenario based training, utilizing trained method actors, to simulate real life calls for service. This block of training built upon CIT training, received by department personnel, in the Spring of 2017.

The Barbara Schneider Foundation (BSF) started in the year 2000 by community members partnering with Minneapolis PD in response to the tragic death of Barbara Schneider and two other community members that year. BSF believes in the "Core Elements of CIT" which describes the Crisis Intervention Team Model as a community wide ongoing collaboration among three community service providers; first responders, mental health and community advocacy, to work to improve the response to crises and to prevent crisis situations.

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) model is designed to influence positive outcomes based on the interactions between law enforcement personnel and individuals with mental illness. When individuals with mental illness are experiencing a psychiatric crisis or are acting out as a result of a mental illness, CIT works by diverting them to appropriate mental health services and supports rather than to the criminal justice system. CIT provides training to law enforcement personnel on preventing psychiatric crises and deescalating a crisis when it occurs, without the unnecessary use of physical force.

CIT programs are only effective when law enforcement personnel, the community mental health system, consumer advocates, family advocates, and other stakeholders collaborate to help ensure that when officers divert an individual, the treatment system is willing and able to provide appropriate services. Until recently, CIT training focused primarily on addressing the needs of adults, although trained officers have also long responded to calls involving youth in psychiatric crises.

As a police department, we welcome this new level of training, which we know supports and corresponds with our values, mission and culture. We believe this training will greatly enhance our ability to respond to calls to assist people in crises.