

Taunton Pre/Post Arrest Jail Diversion Program

The Taunton Jail Diversion Program (JDP), an outgrowth of the CCIT, predates the nationally acclaimed Sequential Intercept Model. This community initiative consists of several components that allow for multiple points of entry including incarceration release. The genesis of the JDP evolved from a desire to bring varied disciplines together to conference problematic cases that pose unique issues for police officers, mental health practitioners, probation officers, and concerned staff from a wide range of state and local agencies.



In summary:

The Taunton CCIT/SIM offers the following:

Three day comprehensive training experience

"Train the Trainers" training including instructor and trainee manuals

Instructors for any combination of the program components

Consultation and technical assistance in organizing community coalitions and training

Sequential Intercept Model

The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) provides a conceptual framework when considering the criminalizing of mental illness. It has a primary purpose of Jail Diversion but goes beyond traditional models in a consideration of a series of points of interception where appropriate interventions can be made to prevent an individual from entering or penetrating deeper into the criminal justice system.



Within the context of the SIM, case conferences are a mainstay with multiple ports of referral for team review and deliberation.

" Inmates, families, guards, judges, prosecutors and police are in unique agreement that our broken system of punting the most seriously mentally ill to the criminal justice system must be fixed."

U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary
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Community Crisis Intervention Team

*A Sequential Intercept Model
For Jail Diversion*

Taunton, Massachusetts

*A community initiative for southern New
England and beyond since 2001*



"Without better mental health care, better partnerships and an improved focus in criminal justice, we can expect unacceptable outcomes to continue ... inappropriate police encounters, unnecessary arrests and incarcerations; delayed release from jail and prisons; increased recidivism of persons with mental illnesses to the criminal justice system; and delayed lack of needed mental health treatment."

New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

CCIT Statement of Mission

A genuine community partnership, the mission of the Community Crisis Intervention Team is two-fold. Principally it exists to promote communication and enhance the response of public and private agencies when summoned to intervene with individuals who are mentally ill, developmentally disabled or experiencing trauma in their lives. Secondly, team members are specifically trained and equipped to assist other communities in their quest of identifying the components and collaboration necessary to replicate a similar Community Crisis Intervention Team initiative of their own.



Training

Core members of the Taunton Community Crisis Intervention Team, with the assistance of others, provide three successive days of training in May and November for police officers, emergency department nurses, hospital security staff, mental health and mental retardation providers, court personnel, first responders and other community professionals.

Program Components:

- * Understanding Mental Illness and Developmental Disabilities
- * Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- * Co-occurring Disorders
- * Suicide Assessment and Prevention
- * "Hearing Voices"
- * Psychotropic Medications
- * Family Support - Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- * Community Resources
- * Emergency Petitions
- * Court Interventions
- * Probation Interventions
- * Police Officer Safety, "Do's and Don'ts"
- * Interviewing and De-escalation Techniques
- * State Hospital Visit and Patient Interviews
- * Critiqued Role Play Scenarios

Participants of CCIT training will be equipped with the skills required to assist in identifying and defusing escalating situations, and will have the knowledge base and comfort level necessary to navigate the bureaucracy of institutions that oftentimes seem counter-productive to the successful resolution of crisis situations.

Technical Assistance: Training Program

Our presentation will explore and explain the initial organization of a community crisis team and the requisite training that should be the foundation of intervention teams. We will also address the crucial component of "staying power"...or how to keep the team cohesive.



Several members of the Taunton Area CCIT have participated in local, regional and national trainings and have developed a comprehensive classroom training program.