

5.1 Crisis Intervention Team [C.I.T.]

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Johnstown Police Department to ensure that a CIT Officer when available respond to all crisis situations taking place or that has taken place within the cities jurisdiction or when requested to respond by another agency.

The CIT officers' goal is to set a standard of excellence with respect to treatment of individuals with mental illness. The CIT officer will work with the community to resolve each situation in a manner that shows concern for the consumers well being.

II. PURPOSE

Crisis Intervention is a multidimensional process. Its main purpose is to provide a safe resolution to the crisis and to ensure protection to the officer, consumer and community. Policy is designed to provide a consistent approach to the crisis occurring by providing support and safety.

III. DEFINITIONS

1. CIT: Crisis Intervention Team is made up of volunteer officers that have received specialized training with regard to mental disturbance type events.
2. Crisis: Will be any behavioral situation that might prove volatile or require urgent intervention. It could be a physical, psychological or medical emergency.
3. Consumer: An individual who has a mental illness or is in crisis.

IV. PROCEDURES

Officer safety is of the utmost importance and will be maintained at all times.

A. CIT Officers

1. CIT Officer[s] respond to regular police service calls in addition to any behavioral crisis events.

5.1 continued

2. A CIT Officer on the scene of a mental crisis call has the duty and responsibility of that scene. Assisting officers' will follow the requests of the CIT Officer for a safe and appropriate disposition. The CIT Officer will maintain scene responsibility unless otherwise directed by a superior officer.
3. When needed the CIT Officer will request the Cambria County Mobile Crisis Unit to respond and will assist them in their endeavors for a safe resolution.
4. A CIT Officer will assist the Cambria County Mobile Crisis Unit upon their request.
5. The CIT Officer will complete a CIT Data Collection Sheet pertaining to the incident.

B. Officer In Charge

1. Officer In Charge will inform the 911 Center of the CIT Officers on duty.
2. 911 should dispatch a CIT Officer to any type of crisis call regardless of the patrol zone.
 - a. The OIC may send a CIT Officer to any call if he/she believes it to be a behavioral crisis event.
3. The OIC may supercede the officer's decision pertaining to transporting a consumer.

C. Patrol Officer's

1. If a CIT Officer is not available for a crisis call the first officer on scene of a behavioral crisis will weigh the situation based on the information and circumstances as presented and/or known. If in a situation that the scene officer reasonably concludes that a CIT Officer is necessary the supervisor will be notified to make that decision.
2. The patrol officer handling the crisis will also have the responsibility of completing the CIT Data Collection Sheet.

D. Transportation of Consumers

1. If the officer has successfully de-escalated the crisis and the non-violent subject is to be transported to the hospital or another location the officer may decide to transport in the patrol car or utilize EMS.

5.1 continued

2. If an officer encounters a violent consumer who is in crisis EMS will transport unless the officer believes it is unsafe to do so. He/she will contact their supervisor who will make the final decision.
3. All consumers being transported will be handcuffed as per department policy and it may be explained to the consumer.

Effective Date:

Date: May 30, 2007

By Order Of:

Craig Foust
Chief Of Police