

Crisis Intervention Team

The magnitude of the problem of untreated mental illness is revealed not in on the numbers, but also in the consequences. More than 1 million people with schizophrenia and manic-depressive illness are not being treating on any given day. Left untreated, these individuals are more likely to experience homelessness, suicide, incarceration, victimization, and violence. These individuals are costly to communities with frequent hospitals emergency department visits and admissions to psychiatric hospitals.

The Memphis Crises Intervention Team (CIT) is an innovative first-responder program that has become nationally known as the “Memphis Model”. The program provides crisis intervention training for first responders helping individuals in a behavioral health crisis. CIT works in partnership with those in mental health care to provide a system of services that is friendly to individuals with mental illness, family members and first responders. CIT has been proven to be the first step to stopping the revolving door for individuals with severe mental illness. Through coordination with law enforcement, community providers and hospitals, individuals can get the help they need to help alleviate the frequent crises.

The research base on the effectiveness of crisis services is growing. There is evidence that crisis stabilization, community-based residential crisis care, and mobile crisis services can divert individuals from unnecessary hospitalizations and ensure the least restrictive treatment option is available to people experiencing behavioral health crises. Additionally, a continuum of crisis services can assist in reducing costs for psychiatric hospitalization, without negatively impacting clinical outcomes.



STOPPING THE CYCLE OF CRISIS THROUGH COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION



