



OHIO CIT NEWS



Fall 2021 



Local Police Officer Receives International Award

NAMI Wayne and Holmes Counties and the City of Wooster Police Department recently received international attention. Patrolman Jerome Fatzinger (Wooster Police Department) was nominated and chosen as the CIT International First Responder of the Year. Officer Fatzinger is a member of the Wayne/Holmes Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Advisory Council. Officer Fatzinger is also the 2021 State of Ohio CIT Officer of the Year. Jerome and NAMI Wayne-Holmes Executive Director, Helen Walkerly, attended the CIT International Conference in Phoenix, AZ in August, where Jerome was honored and given his award. Over a thousand professionals were in attendance to observe his recognition and hear about the circumstances that led to his nomination and selection.

Wooster Police Department's Assistant Chief Scott Rotolo summarized a call to the home of a young male who was threatening suicide and had a firearm in his possession. "As a CIT officer, Patrolman Fatzinger was called to the scene to initiate contact with the young man. Many Wooster PD officers were on the scene to assist but Patrolman Fatzinger was the one who used the skills he learned during CIT to eventually bring a truly dangerous situation to a peaceful resolution. Just prior to Patrolman Fatzinger making contact with the person in crisis he spoke to the man's parent. He was told that his son was barricaded upstairs in the house, had a gun, and wanted to die. Moreover, Patrolman Fatzinger was told that the male had a plan to come outside with the gun and force the police to shoot him. Patrolman Fatzinger called the male using a cell phone and immediately began his attempts to de-escalate him. He spoke to him for over forty-five minutes, all the while using the skills he learned as a CIT officer to gain his trust and to work toward getting him to understand we were there to help him. Patrolman Fatzinger was able to successfully build this foundation of trust to the point where the male agreed to leave the gun in the house and come outside to get the help he so desperately needed."



According to Rotolo, Patrolman Fatzinger was "calm, patient, and compassionate the entire time. His actions epitomize what being a CIT officer is all about and this man is alive, and a peaceful resolution was made. During this incident, several officers worked as a team; however, at the center of it all was Patrolman Fatzinger using his de-escalation skills as a CIT officer. These types of situations are arguably the most dangerous and unpredictable ones we encounter. In this instance our training worked and I'm extremely proud of Jerome for what he did. I'm equally proud of the leadership and passion Patrolman Fatzinger shows for the CIT program as well as the mental health of all his brothers and sisters in law enforcement."

NAMI Director and local CIT Coordinator, Helen Walkerly states “this scenario is just one example of the fine CIT Officer that Jerome is in the line of duty. Since taking the 40-Hour CIT training in 2010, Jerome immediately got involved in the CIT Advisory Council and the local training program. He says that by attending this training and becoming involved with the CIT Program he has found his ‘Why’ as a police officer. Jerome has worked tirelessly to help grow the local program. He participates in the trainings for law enforcement officers, EMS/Fire, and Dispatch and he teaches sections during the course. In April, Patrolman Fatzinger was presented with the 2021 State of Ohio CIT Officer of the Year award and was named the Wayne-Holmes CIT Officer of the Year in 2015. In 2019, the local program was awarded *Ohio CIT Program of the Year*. “

“Jerome is a mentor to other law enforcement officers in both Wayne and Holmes Counties and is thought of as the ‘go to’ officer for the CIT model of intervention. He has started a Law Enforcement Peer Support Group for officers and a Liaison Group for Administrators. His compassion led him to initiate the ‘Chat with a Cop’ program at our local MOCA House recovery center to break down barriers between officers and persons with mental illness. In 2020, when a CIT Officer in the county died by suicide, he was the first to be contacted and provided support to officers of that law enforcement agency. He also participated in the Critical Incident Stress Management process provided for that agency.”

Jerome’s CIT International award states “In recognition of your dedicated service to people living with mental illnesses, to the mental health community and to law enforcement.” He epitomizes this and is a treasure in our local community.

- *Press release submitted by NAMI Wayne-Holmes Counties with special contributions from Assistant Chief Scott Rotolo (Wooster Police Department)*



Patrolman Jerome Fatzinger with CIT International Board Members Yolanda Cruz (left) from California and Carole Ballard (right) from Ohio.



Patrolman Jerome Fatzinger (Wooster PD) and Helen Walkerly (NAMI Wayne-Holmes) at the 2021 CIT International Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.



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Ohio Representation at CIT International

The 2021 CIT International Conference was held from August 16-18 in Phoenix, Arizona. Ohio was well represented at the conference. Along with being the home state of the 2021 CIT Officer of the Year, Patrolman Jerome Fatzinger of the Wooster Police Department, there were 27 individuals from Ohio organizations and jurisdictions that attended the in-person conference.

Ohio workshop presenters at the conference included Carole Ballard, Morgan Brown, Gretchen Hammond, Orlando Hudson, Ruth Simera and Holly Sweizig. Represented organizations and jurisdictions, most of which are represented in the photo below, included Adaptive Sports Ohio, ADAMHS Board of Cuyahoga County, City of Blue Ash Police Department, Columbus Division of Police, Columbus Police Department, Criminal Justice Coordinating Center of Excellence, Family Resource Center, Findley Police Department, Focus: Recovery and Wellness Community, Hopewell Health Centers Inc., Jackson County Correctional Facility, Mental Health & Recovery Board of Union County, Mental Health Addiction and Recovery Services Board of Lorain County, Mighty Crow Media, NAMI Butler County, NAMI Lorain County, NAMI Ohio, NAMI Wayne-Holmes Counties, Stark County Sheriff's Office, StarkMHAR, Union County Sheriff's Department, Veteran's Services in Findlay, and the West Chester Police Department.



Gretchen Hammond, Morgan Brown and Holly Sweizig represented Union County's CIT program, presenting "Data, Now What? – How real-time CIT data improves programming".

Did you miss out on the in-person conference?

You can still register for the virtual conference featuring recordings of all conference sessions and keynote speakers from Sept. 15 – Dec. 31, 2021.

For more information, visit CIT International's conference website at <https://www.citinternational.org/events>

Congratulations!

**Stark County CIT Champion of the Year Officer
Todd Gillilan from Canton Police Department!**



**Stark County CIT Officer of the Year
Deputy Chad Carruthers from the Stark County Sherriff's Office!**



Congratulations!

Wayne Holmes CIT Officer of the Year

Lt. Kevin Milburn from the Doylestown Police Department!



Helen Walkerly (NAMI Executive Director) and Lt. Kevin Milburn



(left) Joshua Miller who nominated Lt. Kevin Milburn (right)

Recent Ohio CIT Graduates

Lucas County Completed 40-hour CIT Training August 16-20, 2021.



Montgomery County Completed 40-Hour CIT Training July 12-16, 2021.



Montgomery County Completed CIT Public Safety Telecommunicator Training August 12, 2021.



CITI Position Paper

CIT International Embedded Co-Response Position Paper

Released in July 2021, CIT International's Board of Directors published a position paper addressing the growing trend of embedded co-response models. Embedded co-response models typically include a mental health clinician(s) responding alongside law enforcement to incidents which may indicate a mental health crisis. This can include responding to situations where, while there may not be a present danger, requires the continued presence of an officer. This publication details CIT International's position of supporting the development of non-police response capacities in communities while continuing to enhance and grow CIT programs across the country. [Click here to read the full paper.](#)

Ohio CIT Support and Expansion Project

The CJ CCoE is pleased to announce that we will once again be administering funding through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services for Ohio CIT Support and Expansion programming during State Fiscal Year 2022. The project will provide support for a variety of activities and training opportunities related to CIT program development. Specifically, the project will once again provide CIT program development subawards to Ohio county and multi-county CIT programs.

To discuss CIT program development, training opportunities and to learn more about the funding opportunity, please contact Haley Farver at hfarver@neomed.edu or 330-325-6815.

Online Training Opportunity – QPR for Law Enforcement

The Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Institute provides an online QPR for Law Enforcement training. This certificate training is designed to provide the skills and techniques needed in suicide prevention for those working in law enforcement. The CJ CCoE purchased 200 training slots for sworn law enforcement officers to complete the online QPR for Law Enforcement training. This training is completely online and takes about 3 hours to complete; however, individuals can stop and start the training as the training platform bookmarks progress. A very limited number of training slots remain, but they will be available until all are taken. Registration is on a first come first served basis.

Please instruct law enforcement officers to register for the training [here](#).

Upon registration, officers will be provided a code to access a CJ CCOE training slot.

To learn more about QPR for Law Enforcement training, please [click here](#).

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Haley Farver at hfarver@neomed.edu.

From NAMI Ohio

CIT Mini Grants and Law Enforcement Scholarships

The CJ CCoE and NAMI Ohio collaborate to make mini grants and scholarships available to Ohio CIT training programs. Funding for mini grants and scholarships is made possible through awards from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

CIT Mini Grants to Support Full CIT Courses: Mini grants in the amount of \$1,800 are available to offset the costs of hosting full CIT courses or academies. Communities can request a mini grant for each 40-hour (or equivalent) course.

CIT Mini Grants for Advanced, Refresher, or Partner Stakeholder Training: Mini grants in the amount of \$1,000 are available for those communities wishing to offer advanced, refresher, or partner stakeholder trainings. This includes training that does not meet the full 40-hours requirement but seeks to provide advanced topic training to existing CIT officers, refresher training to existing CIT officers, or partner stakeholder training to key CIT partners, e.g., public safety telecommunicators, fire/EMS, behavioral health providers.

CIT Scholarships for Law Enforcement Agencies to Send Personnel to CIT Training: Scholarships of \$1,800 are available for Law Enforcement agencies sending police officers for the first time to complete the full 40-hours CIT course. These scholarships prioritize agencies who have not participated in CIT training in the past. A limited number of scholarships are available to agencies that have participated in the past but have financial constraints affecting their ability to send additional officers.

If you previously submitted a request, it is not necessary to submit a new request. If you want to add trainings to your existing request, you can do so through an email to Luke Russell (luke@namiohio.org), identifying the type of training to be held and the dates of training.

For all mini grant and scholarship requests, please provide the following information:

1. Type of training (full CIT course, advanced, refresher, partner stakeholder)
2. Date of the training
3. A list of the members of your CIT Steering Committee
4. Name and address of the entity to whom the check should be made payable (in the case of scholarships, this should be specific law enforcement agencies)
5. Name of law enforcement agency and name and rank/position of specific personnel who will attend training (required for scholarships only)
6. Completed roster of all graduates, and for advanced, refresher and partner stakeholder trainings the type and length of the training upon completion.

All mini grants and scholarships will be paid after completion of the training and once the training roster is verified.

All mini grant and scholarship requests should be made by the county CIT Program Coordinator and sent to Luke Russell at NAMI Ohio: luke@namiohio.org

From NAMI Ohio

CIT – Lived Experience Reimbursement

For the upcoming year (July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022), the CJ CCoE and NAMI Ohio will be providing stipends for persons with lived experience that participate in the CIT training. The purpose is to support and promote consumer, advocate, and family member involvement in CIT training and Sequential Intercept Mapping.

NAMI Ohio will issue speaker payments/stipends for consumers, advocates, and family members who assist with CIT training or Sequential Intercept Mapping. (up to 2 people per event per program is allowable at \$50 stipend per person).

There is a form that needs to be completed and submitted to Luke Russel after each training for these stipends. It is attached to the email accompanying this Ohio CIT News edition.

This form can be emailed to Luke Russell at NAMI Ohio: luke@namiohio.org



Upcoming CIT Courses

- Clark, Greene, Madison Counties September 27 – October 1, 2021
- Cuyahoga County September 27 – October 1, 2021
- Cuyahoga County October 4 – 8, 2021
- Delaware and Morrow Counties October 4 – 8, 2021
- Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot, Erie, Ottawa and Huron Counties October 13, 20, 27, November 3, and 10, 2021
- Crawford and Marion Counties October 18 – 22, 2021
- Cuyahoga County – Cleveland Division of Police October 18 – 22, 2021
- Montgomery County Sheriff's Office October 18 – 22, 2021
- Portage County October 18 – 22, 2021
- Cuyahoga County October 25 – 29, 2021
- Franklin County – Columbus Division of Police October 25 – 29, 2021
- Muskingum, Coshocton, Noble, Perry, Guernsey and Morgan Counties October 25 – 28, 2021
- Seneca, Sandusky, Wyandot, Erie, Ottawa, and Huron Counties October 25 – 28, 2021
- Delaware and Morrow Counties November 1 – 5, 2021
- Licking County November 1 – 5, 2021
- Lucas County November 1 – 5, 2021
- Cuyahoga County November 15 – 19, 2021
- Cuyahoga County November 29 – December 3, 2021

Please advise Haley Farver @ hfarver@neomed.edu of your planned CIT Courses for 2021!



Ohio CIT Program Coordinator or Contact information

Note: Information is subject to change

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