

# TN CIT Expansion & Implementation Progress Report

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NAMI TN

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National Alliance on Mental Illness

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**Tennessee**

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# 2020 Progress Report

## Overview

During Fiscal Year 2019-2020, the Tennessee General Assembly appropriated \$150,000 for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Tennessee to expand and enhance Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) programs to support solution focused community responses to behavioral health crisis encounters.

Based on the successful efforts to grow this program statewide, NAMI Tennessee is requesting an allocation of \$150,000 in the FY 2020-2021 budget as well as an additional \$100,000 to implement effective community strategies to better serve individuals in psychiatric crisis, safely reduce the prevalence of individuals with behavioral health needs in local jails, and reduce costs related prosecution and incarceration, and improve public safety.

## Background

CIT is a highly successful and innovative program founded four decades ago in Memphis as a solution focused community response to helping people with mental illness by bringing stakeholders together from law enforcement, behavioral health and advocacy sectors, along with people with lived experience of mental illness, to develop solutions for safely redirecting people in crisis away from the judicial system and into the behavioral health care system whenever appropriate. The centerpiece of the model is forty (40) hours of specialized training for a select group of police officers who volunteer to become CIT officers.

Tennessee has begun to address these issues through the criminal justice reform efforts and with the expansion of crisis services and funding for pre-arrest diversion.

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## Efforts to Date

With the support of a Department of Justice JMCHP grant, TDMHSAS and TDOC, in partnership with NAMI Tennessee, lead the CIT in Tennessee Task Force. Its goal is to support a strategic partnership between justice and behavioral health systems and promote collaborate efforts across systems to build stronger linkages to care and facilitate meaningful relationships with individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders, their families, and communities from a public health framework.

With the statewide commitments and infrastructure in place, the next phase of the CIT expansion is supporting local and regional CIT programs, particularly in rural areas that have fewer behavioral health resources. State funding in 2019-2020 is supporting CIT program implementation activities, including support for a full-time statewide CIT coordinator and consultant. Outreach efforts have ensued.

The CIT in Tennessee Task Force engaged in a full-scale survey of departments throughout the state. Based on the results of those surveys, the leadership of the task force and additional DOJ funding, we are developing CIT in an 8-county rural region of the state currently underserved by the program model. The development of CIT is resource intensive, particularly for small, rural jurisdictions. This regional, cross-sector, inter-agency approach, embedded within a statewide CIT expansion initiative, is working with local and regional partners to engage community stakeholders, develop infrastructure, train, operate and evaluate CIT programs based on *CIT in TN's* recommendations and core component guidelines, and utilizing its expertise and technical assistance.

In alignment with the statewide initiative, the overarching goal is to develop and implement a rural, multijurisdictional collaborative and gender-responsive CIT program

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model that will improve law enforcement responses to behavioral health crises, link individuals to behavioral health services, and divert them from the criminal justice system when appropriate. Key partners committed to planning, implementing, and expanding CIT in Sumner, Wilson, Smith, DeKalb, White, Putnam, Overton and Cumberland counties include: the CIT in TN statewide task force; Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, the behavioral health and crisis services provider in the region; participating municipal and county law enforcement agencies; and local NAMI affiliates across the region.

Despite the challenges that have come with the COVID-19 public health crisis, we have already accomplished a tremendous amount both at the regional and state level. 8 counties have recently established CIT programs. Within these 8 counties, 24 municipalities are part of the CIT program. Participation of community partners has been good, with each program bringing new partners to each meeting.

**Below is a non-exhaustive list of some the major milestones and activities of our work:**

- **Weakley County and Obion County** merged to create the 27th District CIT Task Force. Weakley County Sheriff Office, Dresden Police Department, Martin Police Department, Greenfield Police Department and Obion Sheriff Office represents the 27th District. There is open dialogue with the local hospital, which attends the monthly meetings and a relationship has been established with the Pathways Mental Health Center. At this time working with the mental health representative to be designated as the CIT Coordinator for the 27th District Task Force. There was a 40-hour CIT training scheduled for the week of April 27th, 2020. But due to COVID-19, the training has been postponed. The last face to face meeting occurred on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Contact has continued with the task force and there is a zoom meeting scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Continued with zoom meeting in June as well.

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- **Tipton County** has established a CIT program. The task force consists of Covington Police Department, Tipton County Sheriff Office, Atoka Police Department and Brighton Police Department, advocacy, and local hospital. A CIT Coordinator for this county has been chosen, which is a representative from Professional Care Services mental health. The Task Force is developing committees for data collection, training and system issues. The Task Force has adopted a slogan for their community “Community Partners working together to effectively intervene with mental health crisis”. The purpose was to have one shared mission. Due to COVID-19, the Sequential Intercept Mapping workshop was cancelled and will be scheduled for a later date. The last face to face with the task force was February 20<sup>th</sup>. The 40-hour CIT training scheduled for the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 was postponed. The new date for the CIT training is the week of September 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - **Sevier County** has established a CIT Program. The task force consists of the Sevier County Sheriff Office, Sevierville Police Department and Pigeon Forge Police Department. Advocacy, mental health provider and Gatlinburg Police Department will be joining the task force. Currently working on short term goals and long-term goals for the task force. The task force is in the process of developing protocols between law enforcement and mental health when confronted with a mental health crisis. Due to COVID-19, the last face to face meeting was February 19<sup>th</sup>. The 40-hour CIT training scheduled for the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 has been postponed. Contact has continued with Sevier County Task Force. There is a zoom meeting scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>. Had a zoom meeting in June 17<sup>th</sup> with the task force. Agreed upon an MOU to be signed by task force members.
  - **Sumner County** has established a CIT program. The task force consists of the Sumner County Sheriff Office, Hendersonville Police Department, Gallatin Police Department, Millersville Police Department and Goodlettsville Police Department. The task force has been meeting since September 2019. The hospital, crisis services (kids and adults), advocacy and faith community are represented on the task force. A CIT Coordinator has been chosen and it is a representative from the Goodlettsville Police Department. The 40-hour CIT training was conducted the week of March 9<sup>th</sup> before the shutdown and stay at

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home orders. It was very successful! A total of 15 officers trained, 3 emergency dispatchers and 1 mental health person. The departments represented were Goodlettsville PD, Sumner County Sheriff Office, Sumner County dispatch, Hendersonville PD, and Gallatin PD. Discussion occurred wanting to schedule a training for the fall. Due to COVID-19, contact has continued with the task force. Also, NAMI TN was awarded a federal grant to create a collaborative CT for eight counties. Sumner County is part of the eight. Will be working on developing the collaboration.

- **Grundy County, Franklin County and the Sewanee University Police Department** have merged to create their CIT Task Force. Franklin County Sheriff Office, Grundy County Sheriff Office, Winchester Police Department and Sewanee Police Department along with local Mental Health Agencies, Anti-Drug Coalition, Advocacy and the local hospital are members of the Task Force. The task force is working on identifying short term goals and long-term goals. The task force has invited Coffee County to be a part of their task force. Due to COVID-19, contact has continued with task force. There was a zoom meeting May 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. There is another scheduled for June 12<sup>th</sup>. Discussion centered around during these times how we can help law enforcement and help CIT continue to grow. We did speak of data and the local mental health agency will be sending data on crisis calls. Law Enforcement will be asked to submit data regarding the mental health calls they have received. The task force has continued to use zoom for task force meetings.
- **White County** has established a Task Force. It consists of the Sparta Police Department, White County Sheriff Office, faith-based community, local hospital, mental health provider and citizens of white county. The task force has identified gaps in their county and are working on developing short term goals and long-term goals. Due to COVID-19, contact has continued with the task force. NAMI TN has been awarded a federal grant to create a CIT collaboration and identified 8 counties where this will occur. White County is one of the 8 counties. Will be working on creating the collaboration. The task force has continued with zoom to conduct task force meeting.

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- We've had continual contact with **Warren County/ McMinnville** CIT program. They are discussing scheduling a 40-hour CIT training in the fall.
  - Continual contact with **Murfreesboro/Rutherford County** CIT. They have scheduled a 40-hour CIT training the week of October 19th. We will provide technical assistance to Murfreesboro/Rutherford County and they will participate in training.

#### **Outreach:**

- **Williamson County**-met with Representative Sam Whitson. There was a meeting with the Mayor of Franklin and discussed what CIT is and how it can benefit the community and law enforcement.
- **Clarksville/Montgomery County**- met with the Mayor of Clarksville and representatives from Clarksville Police Department. Will be scheduling a meeting to meet with law enforcement, hospital and mental health agency within the next month. The Mayor will chair this meeting. Due to COVID-19, a face to face has not been scheduled. Will continue to follow up.
- **Hamblen County**-Greeneville Chief of Police reached out for more information about CIT for his community. There have been several attempts to contact the Chief but will continue with follow up.
- **Greene County**-Contact has been initiated with Greeneville Chief of Police. Chief is interested in CIT for his officers. Will continue with outreach.
- Kim Rush assisted with a CIT training in **Hamilton County/Chattanooga**. She helped facilitate role play along with McMinnville PD officers.

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Completed trainings</b>	<b>Established programs</b>	<b>Outreach</b>
<b>Hamblen County</b>			✓
<b>Clarksville/ Montgomery County</b>	(postponed due to COVID)		✓
<b>Williamson County</b>	(postponed due to COVID)		✓
<b>White County</b>	(postponed due to COVID)	✓	
<b>Grundy County, Franklin &amp; Sewanee University PD</b>	(postponed due to COVID)	✓	
<b>Sumner County</b>	✓	✓	
<b>Sevier County</b>	(postponed due to COVID)	✓	
<b>Tipton County</b>	(postponed due to COVID)	✓	
<b>Weakley, Obion County</b>	(postponed due to COVID)	✓	
<b>Greene County</b>			✓
<b>Hamilton County</b>			✓
<b>Rutherford County</b>		✓	
<b>Warren County</b>		✓	