

## Delaware County Community Corrections

### Purpose:

The purpose of this directive is to define the role and the procedures that will be utilized by a Crisis Intervention Team officer (CIT), other assisting officers, and command personnel in dealing with individuals in our community who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

### II. Policy:

The Delaware County Law Enforcement Agencies recognizes the need for an immediate response to a mental health crisis, and the goal of resolving each situation in a manner that shows respect and concern for the citizen's well being. The C.I.T. model emphasizes specialized training for officers in the area of mental illness, and the need for cooperation between the police department, mental health consumers, family members, and mental health treatment facilities. Furthermore, the agency has a commitment to the citizens of Muncie, Indiana to provide assistance and resources to individuals and family members who suffer from mental illness.

### III. Definitions:

- A. Indiana Code 12-26-4-1, Section 1 allows a law enforcement officer, who has reasonable grounds to believe that an individual has a mentally illness, is either dangerous or gravely disabled and is in immediate need of hospitalization and treatment, may do the following: 1) apprehend and transport the individual to the nearest appropriate facility. The individual may not be transported to a state institution.
- B. Indiana Code 12-26-4-2, Section 2 states that a law enforcement officer who transports an individual to a facility under Section 1 of this chapter shall submit to the facility a written statement containing the basis for the officer's conclusion that reasonable grounds exist under this chapter.
- C. Indiana Code 12-26-4-3, Section 3 advises that the statement required by Section 2 of this chapter shall be filed with both of the following: 1) the individual's records at the facility; and 2) the appropriate court if action relating to any charges filed by the officer against the individual is pursued.

### IV. Procedures:

#### A. Communications Division

- 1. All call takers and/or dispatchers will attempt to identify through appropriate screening techniques that the call for service involves a person with mental illness, or a person in a mental health crisis.
- 2. Once ascertained, a C.I.T. officer will be dispatched to the scene along with a backup unit, if possible depending on staffing and availability.
- 3. If no C.I.T. officer is in-service within the Division where the call for service has been reported, two (2) officers will be dispatched to the scene if possible.

#### B. Responding Officers

- 1. When a C.I.T. officer is on the scene of a mental illness investigation, he/she will take charge of the investigation. The backup unit will assist with any requests of the C.I.T. officer and physical intervention, if required.
- 2. The C.I.T. officer will gather information to decide if the criteria have been met to enforce a 24-hour immediate detention or a 72-hour emergency detention order.
- 3. If a non-CIT officer has reason to believe the person may be suffering from mental illness, they should contact a CIT officer via radio and apprise him/her of the details of their investigation. At the request of the CIT certified officer, they may transport the consumer to the nearest medical facility for a psychiatric assessment where a CIT officer will meet

the transporting officer to complete the necessary 24-hour Immediate Detention paperwork.

4. A consumer will not be permitted to voluntarily sign themselves into the treatment facility if they have a blood alcohol level of .05 BrAC or above, ingested any lethal amounts of over-the counter medicine, ingested prescribed medicines in more than the prescribed dosage amounts, ingested any type of illegal substance, or have demonstrated that they are a danger to themselves or others, including a non-life threatening suicide attempt. The consumer will be held on a 24-hour Immediate Detention order completed by a certified CIT officer.
5. If a felony crime has been committed by the individual, the person will be transported to lockup with criminal charges filed through a probable cause affidavit. Lockup personnel will immediately be notified of the reason to believe the individual is suffering from mental illness. No mental health commitment paperwork will need to be completed by the C.I.T. officer, but a C.I.T. statistical sheet should be completed.
6. If a misdemeanor crime has been committed by the individual, the mental health detention will occur, and criminal charges will not be filed. Criminal charges of any nature cannot be filed, if the person has been held on a 24-hour or 72-hour hold.
7. Any individual transported by a C.I.T. officer or an assisting officer will be searched and handcuffed prior to transport.
8. The C.I.T. officer will transport the individual to a medical facility, complete the immediate detention paperwork, sign the first page of the Application for Emergency Detention, complete a direct entry report and add C.I.T in the circumstances field, and a C.I.T. statistical report. The four-page detention paperwork should be divided as follows: two copies to the medical facility, one copy to Civil court, and one copy to the C.I.T. coordinator.
9. The officer is not required to standby during the evaluation process. However, the officer must insure that the individual he/she transported is being observed by hospital personnel prior to their departure.

**V. Training:**

- A. All C.I.T. officers will receive a minimum of forty (40) hours of initial provided by mental health professionals in the community, representatives of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and consumers.
- B. Each graduate of the C.I.T. program will be required to receive an additional four (4) hours of continuing education in the area of mental illness annually. The training may occur during their tour of duty, as long as minimum counts have not been met, or approval has been received from their commanding officer. The training must be documented by the instructor, and the documentation must be provided to the Training Center to verify the hours completed.

**Approved:**

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Date:

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**[Insert Name]**  
**Coordinator Jail Diversion/CIT**