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Training Subcommittee

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Agency: [Mental Health Response Advisory Committee \(MHRAC\)](#)

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Summary

- The Session 2 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training involving suicide prevention is now complete. There are two specialized CIT trainings remaining this year (to be conducted in October and December).
- Lt. John Mullin reported that for calendar year 2023 (as of Sept. 13), 36.89% of CIT police calls included a specialized CIT officer. Community advocate Rosie Palfy referred to those numbers as “misleading” and asked for data from the department’s [Brazos](#) data collection system. Mullin said that the data was “not misleading at all” and that there were 3,673 calls in Brazos for 2023.
- Carole Ballard stated that a draft of the CIT dispatch training was sent to the Training Committee but received no response. The training will now be sent to the Consent Decree Monitoring Team.
- The committee brainstormed about what aspects and components of trauma should be covered during the 2024 CIT officer training.

Follow-Up Questions

- I was a little confused by the interaction between community advocate Palfy and Mullin over the percentage of CIT calls with a specialized CIT officer (reported as 36.89%). It sounds as though the denominator of CIT calls is larger when using the Brazos data collection system Palfy refers to, but it was unclear what the department used as the denominator for these percentages. What data is the basis for the reported percentage of CIT calls?
- While interesting, I thought the trauma discussion at the end of the meeting was very wide-ranging and not always internally consistent (as when Teri Wang stated that the group wasn’t focused enough on the “hard sciences” when talking about trauma). Will the discussion outcomes be provided to the trauma subject matter experts subgroup for them to make use of?

Notes

The MHRAC Training Subcommittee meeting began on Zoom shortly after 1 p.m.

Members present (list of board members here)

- Carole Ballard, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services of Cuyahoga County (ADAMHS) Board's director of Education & Training
- Lt. John Mullin, crisis intervention coordinator, Cleveland Division of Police (CDP)
- Carmen Gandarilla
- Leigh R. Anderson
- Rick Oliver, FrontLine Service
- Cassey Fye, NAMI Cleveland program director
- Loh, Homeless Congress
- Sgt. Maggie Crespo, CDP
- Cleveland Community Police Commissioner Teri Wang
- Taneisha Fair, Center for Community Solutions

Update of CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) training

Mullin said that the Session 2 in-service CIT training on suicide prevention was complete. Mullin said there would be two more trainings this year, one in October and one in December. Mullin said that as of Aug. 31, 121 active CDP officers had completed this training, with 90 agreeing to respond to calls as part of the CIT. Mullin said that as of July 31, there were 490 officers on patrol.

Mullin said that the percentage of CIT calls with a specialized CIT officer increased from 9.43% in 2020 to 36.89% in 2023 year-to-date (through Sept. 13). Community advocate Rosie Palfy said these numbers were "misleading" and asked Mullin for the number of CIT calls for each year from the department's Brazos data collection system.

After responding that the information was "not misleading at all," Mullin provided annual Brazos numbers from 2020-23 (which are listed below along with the percentages). It is unclear to this observer whether the percentages were based on the Brazos numbers, and, if not, how CIT calls are counted.

- 2020 – 9.43% (3,948)
- 2021 – 17% (5,122)
- 2022 – 31.75% (5,005)
- 2023 year-to-date – 36.89% (3,673)

It was mentioned that calls that become crisis intervention calls during the course of the event are marked as such on the CIT stat sheets.

Loh asked about the Diversion Center contract with the ADAMHS board. Ballard said she would share the data with the group.

Fair asked where the statistics for the meeting would be posted publicly. Ballard said that when the MHRAC Quality Improvement (QI) committee was active, this data was published on the ADAMHS website. However, since the MHRAC committee now falls under the City of Cleveland, it is up to the city to publish data.

Update on dispatch training:

Ballard said the dispatch training information was sent to the Training Committee but received no response. The training will now be sent to the Cleveland Police Monitoring Team for review and will ultimately be sent to the judge overseeing the consent decree (*per my understanding – TH*).

Creation of materials for 2024 trauma training:

Ballard said that, following the results of a recent officer survey, the 2024 CIT training would be about trauma. She said the training usually took about half a day to complete. She said that a subgroup of trauma subject matter experts will meet next week to create the structure and format of the training, and the results will be shared with this committee at its next meeting. Ballard asked the group what specific aspects of trauma officers need to know. A wide-ranging discussion ensued, with the following topics discussed:

- “What is physically happening in the body during trauma?”
- A discussion of some of the ways that people cope with trauma (e.g., alcohol and substance abuse, sexual behaviors, etc.)
- A discussion of how issues such as race and culture impact the experience of trauma
- Palfy said being in a crisis is traumatic in and of itself (i.e., trauma doesn’t always mean that a person has a mental illness)
- Vicarious or second-hand trauma
- The point was made that humans may appear aggressive to others (e.g., police), but their behavior is a result of being in a mental health crisis.
- The trauma that officers feel as a part of their job (the phrase “trauma ages you” was used)

Wang said she felt the committee's discussion on trauma didn't focus enough on what the "hard sciences" know about the body's physical responses to it. She mentioned the example of how the body processes adrenaline, and she provided links in the Zoom chat to several articles and podcasts.

Other:

Palfy said she felt that MHRAC members should be allowed to attend the 40-hour specialized CIT training sessions for officers.

The new MHRAC page on the Cleveland Department of Public Health website was unveiled (see [here](#)).

The meeting adjourned shortly before 2 p.m.

If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at cleDOCUMENTERS@gmail.com with "Correction Request" in the subject line.