

Crisis Intervention Teams: A Study of the Benefits of the Memphis Model for Officers and Florida Agencies

Anne-Marie Wendel

Law Enforcement Agencies statewide are spending many hours on dealing with people diagnosed with mental illness to include those people with co-occurring substance use disorders. People who suffer from co-occurring disorders have been diagnosed with a mental illness and also have substance (drugs or alcohol) abuse. We are also dealing with people that are in some type of mental health crises which poses many officer safety issues. Are we training our members to handle these calls in the most efficient manner to improve officer safety, consumer (persons diagnosed with some type of mental illness) safety, and overall community safety? Are we getting the consumers to the best treatment options? Would Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) benefit our agencies, consumers, and communities? Officers and Agencies using the CIT model were surveyed to attempt to answer these questions.