A Multicounty Evaluation of CIT in Pennsylvania

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A Multi-county Evaluation of CIT in Pennsylvania

- Ongoing evaluation of CIT in several PA counties, funded by PCCD
- Three Aims
  - Assess the fidelity of several ongoing CIT programs in PA to the originally designed Memphis model
  - Analyze the effectiveness of CIT programs in PA in altering officer behavior during encounters with individuals with mental illness
  - Examine the characteristics of police response, other than CIT, that are associated with effective interventions
- Methods
  - Review training schedule and materials
  - Review 3000 police incident reports from 4 counties
The Issues

- CIT designed to be altered to meet the local needs
- This means there could be a lot of variability in how people design their CIT “system” and in the training
- To date, haven’t really known if and how much variability there is (or isn’t) in training
- We also don’t know if this training variability matters in terms of outcomes
Determining “Essential Elements”

- Publically available documents from 4 states
  - Tennessee (Memphis Model)
  - Ohio
  - Florida
  - Virginia

- Developed a list of elements across all 4 states
  - Essential (core) Elements
  - Desired Elements

- A total of 83 elements
## CIT Essential Element Matrix
### (sample items)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Memphis</th>
<th>VA</th>
<th>FL</th>
<th>OH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MH community involved in training</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-service/advanced CIT offered for those officer who completed the full course</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers volunteer for training</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Diversity is the focus of training for at least 2 hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X=essential  /=desired
Determining Fidelity Score

- **Step 1:** Rated the presence of 83 items in the PA counties
  - 2: item is present
  - 1: partially present
  - 0: not present

- **Step 2:** Applied a weight to each item
  - Items that were an essential element in all 4 states given highest weight
  - Items that were only mentioned by 1 state given the lowest weight
  - Presence value (0-2) X Weight (2-7) = item score
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(sample items)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
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<th>FL</th>
<th>OH</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MH community involved in training</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-service/advanced CIT offered for those officer who completed the full course</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers volunteer for training</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Diversity is the focus of training for at least 2 hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X=essential /=desired
Essential Elements: Present in all 4 PA Counties

- Training partnerships involving law enforcement and mental health professionals, consumers and families
- Community buy-in
- Patrol officers being trained and at least annual trainings
- Training that includes use of didactics and lectures
Essential Elements: Present in all 4 PA Counties

- Training that includes modules on
  - D&A
  - Clinical issues
  - Co-occurring disorders
  - Developmental disabilities
  - Family/consumer perspectives
  - Overview of special populations
  - PTSD
  - Civil Commitment/legal proceedings
  - De-escalation skill training
  - Roleplaying, based on real life experiences
  - Overview of community resources
  - Certificates of recognition/pin for officers
  - Evaluation of trainers/overall class
Essential Elements: Not Present in any of the 4 PA Counties

- Inter-agency agreements related to training
- Spending 2 hours on cultural diversity and 4 hours on officer liability and civil commitment
- Dispatcher training that includes experiential exercises, role playing and in-service training
- CIT for other groups (e.g. jail and custodial personnel, non-LE first responders)
Next Steps

- Our findings so far indicate
  - All 4 PA counties in the evaluation include a high number of essential items
  - There is some variability as expected

- Our next step, once incident reports are coded, we’ll see if that variability is related to officer behavior