

**Oklahoma Department of Mental Health
and Substance Abuse Services**

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**OKLAHOMA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WILL BE OFFERED CRISIS
INTERVENTION TEAM TRAINING**

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) will conduct a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for law enforcement officers July 7-11 at Western Technology Center in Weatherford.

The class, which is free, carries Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) continuing education credits. Additionally, upon completing the training, qualifying departments will receive reimbursement of \$400 to help offset their costs.

The specialized 40-hour training is being offered by ODMHSAS to law enforcement officers who often are the first to respond to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. The classes are open to all types of law enforcement, including campus police, corrections officers and hospital security. The training prepares first responders to de-escalate crisis situations to help provide for the safety of officers, the individuals involved and the public. Participants not only will learn how to manage mental health crises, but also will take away resources to help resolve such situations.

“Every day, law enforcement officers across our state are called to mental health crisis situations,” said Traci Cook, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Oklahoma executive director. “CIT classes provide officers with top-notch skills training so they may better assess what is happening with an individual and the best way to handle the situation. With one in four Oklahomans having a mental illness, CIT training must become a priority for our officers and our communities.”

Partners in the training program include the Oklahoma City, Edmond, Norman, Midwest City and Weatherford Police Departments, as well as the Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Department and NAMI Oklahoma. Funding is provided by a Bureau of Justice Grant, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration grant on trauma-informed care (Bureau of Justice Assistance, Justice and Mental Health collaboration program).

To register for CIT training, officers can visit ok.gov/odmhsas/ and click on CIT Grant Training Registration under the Quick Links tab.

Oklahoma’s final CIT expansion grant classes are scheduled for August 4th-8th in Tishomingo, September 15th-19th in Shawnee and October 27th-31st in Cushing.

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