I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish written policy within the Department concerning the functions and responsibilities of the Crisis Intervention Team.

II. DEFINITIONS

A. CIT Council - A council, comprised of law enforcement officials, court officials and mental health advocates, responsible for training and policy concerning the Crisis Intervention Team. The Council also has a review board that meets to discuss individual cases and formulates recommendations.

B. Consumer - A term commonly used by the mental health community when referring to an individual with a suspected mental illness or who is involved in a perceived mental health crisis and utilizes mental health services.

C. Mental Health Crisis - A situation where an individual's normal coping mechanisms have become overwhelmed causing that individual to pose an immediate and significant risk to self or others (e.g., violent OBS, suicidal subject, etc.).

III. GENERAL

A. The Department's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is composed of specially trained officers whose function is to respond to incidents which involve a mental health crisis, where the officer's specialized skills may be used to successfully conclude such an incident and to provide further assistance, beyond the actual call, for the individual involved.

B. The policies contained in this Order do not supersede those outlined in general orders involving use of force or the notification of specialized units for incidents where the situation depicts such a notification (i.e., notifications to the Bureau of Crimes Against Persons, Tactical Operations Unit, etc.).

IV. SELECTION OF CIT PERSONNEL

A. Precinct commanders shall have primary responsibility for the selection of CIT officers and supervisors within their precinct and the assignment as a CIT member shall be voluntary. Precinct commanders shall ensure an adequate number of officers are trained in CIT to respond to CIT related calls for service in their precinct.

B. CIT members shall be non-probationary officers with no less than two years of police experience (at least one with this Department) and shall possess no less than 40 hours of specialized CIT training.
V. PROCEDURE

A. Dispatch of Call

1. When the Bureau of Communications receives a report of a situation that is known to involve a mental health crisis, the dispatcher shall immediately dispatch the two closest beat officer(s). The closest available CIT officer shall then be located and directed to respond to the call. If the closest CIT officer is from a contract municipality, prior supervisor approval is required.

2. If the Bureau of Communications receives a report of a situation that is not immediately recognized as a mental health crisis, but the first arriving officer determines that a CIT officer is needed, that beat officer shall immediately request a CIT officer to respond.

3. On-duty CIT officers, in adjoining precincts only, may be utilized if the precinct responding to the call has no CIT officers on-duty/available and a supervisor in each precinct is notified by Communications. Supervisors of adjoining contract municipalities shall have discretion on whether or not a CIT officer will be sent out of the municipality to respond to a CIT type call.

B. Control of Scene

1. The on-scene CIT officer shall have primary responsibility of the scene on any mental health crisis type call, unless a supervisor is present.

2. In cases where a supervisor is on the scene along with a CIT officer, the supervisor shall have primary control of the scene. The CIT officer will have no further control of the scene beyond the use of his/her specialized skills to successfully conclude the incident.

C. Responsibilities of the CIT Officer

1. The primary responsibility of the CIT officer on the scene is to use his/her specialized skills for the successful conclusion of the incident. Upon arrival at the scene of a mental health crisis the CIT officer will determine the circumstances and shall be responsible for the initiation of the appropriate response.

2. If the CIT officer determines that the individual involved is a danger to himself or others the CIT officer shall have primary responsibility to arrange for transportation.

3. Admission to a treatment facility should be arranged by the CIT officer. This may include affidavits required by either the individual's family members or the CIT officer. CIT officers shall follow procedures outlined in the General Order, “Treatment and/or Transportation of Sick or Injured Persons.” when admission to a treatment facility is required.

4. If the individual is not a danger to himself or others and therefore will not be taken into protective custody or taken into custody for a crime committed, the CIT officer will be responsible for notifications made to mental health professionals for further care of the individual (i.e., Behavioral Health Response-Mobile Outreach).

5. It shall be the primary responsibility of the CIT officer to notify Justice Services of any mental health concerns when an individual is being held for a crime committed. Justice Services will in turn be responsible for the initiation of providing mental health services to that individual while in their custody.

6. If it is determined that information concerning an individual should be entered into the CAD Alert File this should be the primary responsibility of the CIT officer. Procedures contained in the Special Order entitled, "CAD Alert File and Confidential Codes" should be followed when entering the individual into the CAD Alert File.
Department General Order 11-86, “Crisis Intervention Team”

D. Transportation of Individuals Involved in a Mental Health Crisis

Procedures outlined in the General Order, “Treatment and/or Transportation of Sick or Injured Persons”, shall be followed when transporting an individual who was involved in a mental health crisis.

E. Reporting Procedures

1. The primary beat officer shall have responsibility for completing the original incident report concerning the call.

2. The CIT officer shall have responsibility for completing the CIT report through MobileNet, supplemental CARE reports and the filling out of any forms needed for the admission of the individual into a treatment facility (if required). If warrant application is to be made on the individual this shall also be the responsibility of the CIT officer but no warrant application by a CIT officer shall supersede that of units that may have further responsibility for the incident (i.e., Crimes Against Persons, Domestic Violence Unit, etc.). CIT officers shall also have primary responsibility for any notifications made to mental health professionals.

3. Whether a crime committed by an individual in a mental health crisis is considered a felony or a misdemeanor, warrant application is required. Arrest Notifications are not authorized.

4. For those cases that are considered ordinance violations and that will be presented to the St. Louis County Counselor’s Office for warrant application the following steps shall be taken.
   a. The CIT officer shall notify his CIT supervisor who shall review both the CARE report and the Crisis Intervention Team report.
   b. Upon approval, the supervisor shall e-mail the St. Louis County Counselor's Office at: citwarrantapp@stlouisco.com notifying them of the warrant application. The e-mail should include the original report number, the original reporting officer's name and DSN, the CIT officer's name and DSN and shall be directed to the attention of the Mental Health Docket/Jail Diversion Project Supervisor.
   c. The County Counselor's Office will review both the CARE report and the CIT report. A return e-mail from the County Counselor's Office will be sent to the supervisor notifying him/her that the case has been reviewed and the disposition of the warrant application.
   d. The supervisor shall notify the CIT officer of the completed warrant application. The CIT officer shall access the CIT report through MobileNet and add the disposition of the warrant application. The CIT officer shall then complete a supplemental CARE report.

5. In cases where a CIT officer was not available during a mental health crisis type call, beat officers shall complete the original incident report (if necessary) and provide any immediate assistance available to the individual involved. The beat officer shall notify his/her watch commander of the call and in turn the watch commander shall ensure that a CIT officer is notified concerning the call. The CIT officer will take over further responsibilities including supplemental reports, the Crisis Intervention Team Report, further notifications involving care for the individual and warrant application.

F. Responsibilities of the CIT Supervisor

1. The primary responsibility for CIT supervisors is to monitor the activities of CIT officers within his/her precinct. Monitoring of CIT officers under a supervisor's command shall include but is not limited to the following:
a. Ensuring that CIT officers complete the Crisis Intervention Team Report when applicable.

b. Ensuring that CIT officers conduct follow-up investigations, if necessary, on cases investigated by them.

c. Ensuring that CIT officers make warrant application, if necessary, on cases investigated by them.

d. Ensuring that CIT officers attend CIT Council-Review Board meetings when requested to do so.

2. CIT supervisors shall be responsible for reviewing/approving Crisis Intervention Team Reports entered in MobileNet for all incidents occurring within their precinct.

3. CIT supervisors shall be responsible for notifying the CIT Coordinator of both positive and negative incidents concerning emergency medical or hospital issues that may arise.

VI. MENTAL HEALTH DOCKET

The Mental Health Docket of the St. Louis County Municipal Court System is a specialized docket for certain St. Louis County ordinance violations. If the County Counselor receives information indicating a defendant is possibly laboring under the effects of some mental illness, his or her charges may be placed on the Mental Health Docket. This specialty docket strives to give intensive court supervision and mental health resource assistance to such defendants.

VII. JAIL DIVERSION PROJECT

The Jail Diversion Project is a program available to certain defendants who will go through the intake process of the St. Louis County Jail for certain St. Louis County ordinance violations. If the jail's intake staff becomes aware that a prisoner has some possible mental illness, the defendant may be placed in the Jail Diversion Program. The Jail Diversion Program will provide the defendant with intensive mental health resource assistance with goals of decreased jail time, less punitive dispositions and reduced recidivism.

Adopted by Command Staff

By order of:

COLONEL TIMOTHY FITCH
Chief of Police

TF:jb

Approved at the regular Board meeting of March 16, 2011.

GREGORY G. SANSONE
Chairman

REV. JIMMY L. BROWN
Secretary

Distribution
All Department Personnel

CALEA Reference
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