



# Dutiful Minds

"It's More Than Just Training"



# Teaching Law Enforcement

- To deal more effectively with the mentally ill – who make up **10%** of the calls officers respond to!
  - (Los Angeles Times 1999)
- Persons in crisis who are mentally ill commit more than **1,000 homicides** per year

# WHY?

- Reduce injuries to officers
- Reduce injuries to the mentally ill
- Reduce liability
- Divert mentally ill from jail and get them the help they really need
  
- + It's the right thing to do!
  - (Not just a claim but an evidence based practice – Kent State University)

# Officer Safety

- “Special populations need and deserve specially trained officers”

Major Sam Cochran – Memphis Police Dept.

- Proven techniques to de-escalate volatile mentally ill persons
- Wherever CIT is in place the call for SWAT & Negotiators decreases by **60%**

# Mentally Ill Safety

- “It is the wise officer that can at times conceal their combat ready status” Lt. Michael Woody (Ret) Director of Training – Akron Police Dept.
- Officers learn how to gain **voluntary** compliance from delusional mentally ill persons in crisis

# Liability

- City of Canton vs. Harris – 1989 civil case
- U.S. Supreme Court coined term  
“Deliberate Indifference”
- Officers MUST be trained to handle  
everyday, job-related problems

# Lead Instructor and Facilitator

- Lt. Michael S. Woody (Ret) – Director of Training; Akron Police Dept.
- 25 years of law enforcement experience
- “Compassion in Law Enforcement” National Award
- Summit County Mental Health Board “Heart of Gold” Award
- B.A. in Education – University of Akron

# Lt. Woody

- Currently sits on The Ohio Supreme Courts Mental Health Initiatives formal Committee
- Is Chairman of The Ohio Supreme Courts Police Training sub-committee
- Is on the Executive committee of the National CIT Planning Organization



# Lt. Woody

- Is a Consultant to:
- The Presidents New Freedom Commission on Mental Health Issues
- The National G.A.I.N.S. Center
- Ohio Criminal Justice Services
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill
- Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine

# Lt. Woody

- Is currently the State of Ohio Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Specialist for The Coordinating Center of Excellence/Criminal Justice
  - (A program funded by the Ohio Department of Mental Health)
  - There are now more CIT programs up and running in Ohio than any other state thanks, in part, to Lt. Woody's dedication and commitment

# Availability in Ohio

- Funded by State Grants to conduct, supervise and consult with communities looking at initiating Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and other jail diversion programs in Ohio
- Law Enforcement
- Mental Health Providers
- Consumer Groups e.g. NAMI

# Other States

- Lt. Woody conducts/facilitates one-day to 5-day trainings tailored to your community needs and budget
- He consults with the different organizations to bring them together and form partnerships to make CIT work efficiently and effectively

# Examples

- 1-day Crisis Intervention Team training:
  - Geared to the officer that deals with these types of calls on a daily basis (10% of all dispatched calls)
  - Gets into de-escalation, meds, suicide calls, illnesses, mentally ill persons and family members perspective.
  - Less-lethal force issues
  - And more

# Not Just For Line Officers

- Training can be tailored to be relevant for Dispatchers/Call takers, Probation/Parole officers, EMS and first-line supervisors

# For More Information

- Lt. Woody can easily be contacted online at:
  - [michael.s.woody@earthlink.net](mailto:michael.s.woody@earthlink.net)
  - (330)896-4001; Cell: (330)281-1399
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- He is also available as a long-term consultant

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Lt. Woody had the unfortunate experience of having a mentally ill woman try to kill him many years ago. She ultimately lost her own life as a result. Since that time, Lt. Woody has researched a better and safer way to handle mentally ill persons in crisis. He is a passionate speaker that holds the audience attention and relates very well to law enforcement officers