



## Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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### **Fairfield County ADAMH teaches local police crisis intervention**

LANCASTER, Ohio, Oct. 28 — From 9 a.m.–5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 31, through Friday, Nov. 4, 2022, the Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board will provide Crisis Intervention Team (C.I.T.) training to 20 law enforcement officers and criminal justice personnel. The majority of the 2022 training will occur at Fairfield Medical Center’s River Valley Campus at 2384 N. Memorial Dr. in Lancaster.

C.I.T. trainings certify individuals who may be the first on scenes how to better serve community members experiencing mental health crises. ADAMH Prevention Coordinator Toni Ashton, M.Ed., LSW, OCPC, will facilitate the course that involves a variety of trainers to instruct participants on improving their communication skills, identifying local resources and increasing safety. The week-long, hands-on training includes:

- Presentations from subject matter experts on topics, such as de-escalation, treatment options and community resources
- Panels with individuals in recovery and family members of people struggling with mental health and/or substance use disorders
- Question, persuade and refer (QPR) training
- Fieldtrip to the Fairfield Center of Hope, one of Fairfield County ADAMH Board’s Network of Care Agencies
- Role-playing exercises\*

C.I.T. will conclude with graduation and a presentation of certificates and pins.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), C.I.T. programs divert people with mental illness from being arrested by getting them the support services they need. While saving community dollars, C.I.T. programs also provide more safety and effectiveness tools to law enforcement professionals so that their focus can remain mostly on crime. A little-known fact is that 9-1-1 callers may request a C.I.T.-certified first responder for their emergencies.

“C.I.T. training is optional,” says Fairfield County ADAMH Board Executive Director Marcy Fields, LISW-S, “so ADAMH greatly appreciates the departments who allow their staff to attend.”

The Fairfield County ADAMH Board is responsible for the planning, funding and monitoring of mental health, addiction and recovery services in Fairfield County. ADAMH promotes wellness and recovery from mental health and substance use disorders by providing a continuum of care consisting of prevention, recovery and community support services for those affected by substance use disorders and/or mental health disorders in Fairfield County. For more information, visit [www.fairfieldadamh.org](http://www.fairfieldadamh.org).

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*Please note: Role-play exercises present law enforcement officers in full dress uniform with real-life scenarios they may encounter while on duty so they can practice what they have learned during the entirety of C.I.T. training. These make for excellent photo opportunities.*