



Photo Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Latina A. Duffy
740.654.0829 x242
lduffy@ohiopps.org

Fairfield County ADAMH graduates 12 Law Enforcement Officers from CIT Training

LANCASTER, Ohio, Nov. 8 — On Friday, Nov. 8, 2019, the Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board graduated 12 law enforcement officers and other related personnel from Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training.

CIT trainings certify individuals who may be the first on scenes how to better serve community members experiencing mental health crises. Board staff Toni Ashton, M.Ed., LSW, OCPC, and Maureen Keller, LISW-S, facilitated the course that included a variety of trainers to instruct participants on improving their communication skills, identifying local resources and increasing safety. The week-long, hands-on training included:

- 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 addiction disorders
- Fieldtrips to local courts and the Fairfield Mental Health Consumer Group (one of Fairfield County ADAMH Board's Network of Care Agencies)
- Role-playing exercises

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), CIT programs divert people with mental illness from being arrested by getting them the support services they need. While saving community dollars, CIT 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 CIT-certified first responder for their emergencies.

“CIT training is optional so ADAMH truly appreciates the departments who allow their staff to attend,” said Fairfield County ADAMH Board Executive Director Rhonda Myers, MA, MSW, LISW-S. “It was my honor to present certificates and certification pins to our most recent graduates.”

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 addiction disorders by providing a continuum of care consisting of prevention, recovery and community support services for those affected by addiction and/or mental health disorders in Fairfield County. For more information, visit www.fairfieldadamh.org.

###