

CIT INTERNATIONAL SALUTES IACP “ONE MIND CAMPAIGN”

In March of 2016 CIT International Inc. represented by its president Michael Woody was invited to be part of a Blue Ribbon Committee titled “Improving Police Response to Persons Affected by Mental Illness” held at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) offices in Virginia. In the course of this work they identified the urgent need for a new strategy—the IACP’s One Mind Campaign—to create incentives for police agencies to adopt the four promising practices to improve law enforcement response to persons affected by mental illness.

These promising approaches include (1) partnering with one or more community mental health provider through a clearly defined and sustainable partnership; (2) developing and agency-wide policy on the topic; (3) training 100% of sworn officers (and selected non-sworn staff, such as dispatchers) on Mental Health First Aid (the one for Public Safety personnel); and (4) training at least 20% of sworn staff (and selected non-sworn staff, such as dispatchers) on the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) response model.

CIT International’s president and The National Council on Behavioral Health (which owns and administers MHFA) president and CEO Linda Rosenberg joined IACP leaders, and officials from the Bureau of Justice Assistance on stage at the 2016 IACP conference in San Diego this fall to launch the “One Mind Campaign.” Both gave unwavering support for this admirable and well-thought-out endeavor. This campaign will absolutely help law enforcement leaders keep officers safer, those with mental illnesses safer, and give families and others confidence that they will get a “special officer” that knows the best way to de-escalate persons in crisis and can recognize when a person is in this type of crisis.

CIT International salutes the IACP for stepping up to the plate and being the leader in progressive and sound programs that better serve everyone involved. This campaign is destined have many ancillary benefits, such as more diversion of those with mental illnesses to treatment facilities instead of jails, reduced liability and possible “Failure to Train” lawsuits, less injuries, more job satisfaction, and ever-building and lasting partnerships with the mental health and advocacy community.

To join the campaign, law enforcement agencies commit to implementing the four promising practices over a 12-36 month timeframe. Agencies demonstrating a serious commitment to implementing all four required

strategies in a timely fashion will become publicly recognized as members of IACP's One Mind Campaign.

[JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TODAY](#)