



**Mental Health Core Service Agency Advisory Committee:
Access to Treatment Subcommittee
Cecil County Community Health Advisory Committee
July 17, 2014**

Overview:

January – June 2014

During the second half of FY2014, a subcommittee of the Core Service Agency (CSA) Mental Health Advisory Committee has continued to address priority #2 of the Local Health Improvement Plan: Behavioral Health/Access to Treatment. In FY14, the CSA received new grant funding from the Mental Hygiene Administration to develop Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) in partnership with local law enforcement in Cecil County. The primary component of CIT is training of law enforcement personnel in behavioral health intervention. Given this new funding opportunity, the focus of the subcommittee has become oversight of the implementation of CIT. This initiative is consistent with Goal #1, Objective #3: Decrease rate of emergency department visits related to behavioral health conditions through the provision of training for law enforcement personnel in behavioral health intervention for “on-the-scene.” Affiliated Santé Group, the current provider of Cecil County’s mobile crisis service, was awarded the contract to implement CIT in partnership with the Core Service Agency. The first training with Elkton Police Department is scheduled for 9-10-2014. The benefits of CIT are that: 1)safety is increased for both law enforcement officers and for the individual with the behavioral health condition, 2)improved outcomes (chances for the most appropriate outcome are increased), 3)the crisis response system becomes more cohesive and less fragmented. When CIT is fully operational, there is a community oversight team, consisting of all partners (law enforcement, mobile crisis team, mental health providers, emergency department, advocates) that review data and processes on at least a quarterly basis.

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