

To: Shannon Pullen
Chair, Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee (BHUAC)

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Portland Police Bureau, Compliance Coordinator

From: Lieutenant Tashia Hager

Portland Police Bureau, Behavioral Health Unit

On: April 1st, 2015

Re: Response to BHUAC 2014 Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team Training
Recommendations

The Behavioral Health Unit Advisory Committee (BHUAC) provided recommendations regarding the 2014 Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team (ECIT) Training. Following are the formal responses to the recommendations submitted on behalf of the BHUAC to the Portland Police Bureau Behavioral Health Unit.

Recommendations re: May 2014 ECIT Training

#1 Suicide and Psychosis

Committee Recommendation: The BHUAC recommended the PPB add a class on Suicide and Psychosis for future Enhanced Crisis Intervention Team trainings.

Response: The 2015 ECIT curriculum will incorporate communication with a person in psychosis, which will include discussing suicide and psychosis, during the Mental Status Indicators class. This will also include some in class role playing to provide a practical exercise to support the learning objective.

#2 Holds

Committee Recommendation: The BHUAC recommended bringing in a peer who has been placed on a Hold to discuss his or her experience during the section of the training regarding Holds.

Response: Peace Officer/Director custodies is a part of the basic CIT course curriculum and refresher training was provided to all PPB Members during the 2103 annual in-service. In order to avoid redundancy in training, ECIT will not be incorporating Peace Officer/Director Custody training. We will ask peers participating in the Consumer Panel Discussion during ECIT training if they would be willing to discuss their experiences while on a mental health civil hold.

#3 Information on Recovery

Committee Recommendation: The BHUAC liked the new addition of the information regarding the concept of recovery and the history of the recovery movement and recommend it be included in future ECIT trainings.

Response: The Peer Recovery Movement class will remain in the ECIT curriculum.

#4 Information on Early Assessment and Support Alliance (EASA)

Committee Recommendation: The BHUAC liked the new addition of the EASA presentation recommend it be included in future ECIT trainings.

Response: The Early Assessment and Support Alliance (EASA) class will remain in the ECIT curriculum. The BHU is also seeking to expand the information provided on juvenile/young adult mental health resources.

#5 Information on National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Committee Recommendation: The BHUAC liked the new addition of the NAMI presentation recommend it be included in future ECIT trainings.

Response: The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) class will remain in the ECIT curriculum.

#6 Consumer and Family Member Panels

Committee Recommendation: The BHUAC found the consumer and family member panels benefitted from the additional time and recommend that additional time should be allotted in future ECIT trainings.

Response: The ECIT training plan will continue to allocate at least one hour for each panel to ensure there is ample time for consumers, family members and officers to interact.

#7 Presentation Style and Format

Committee Recommendation: The BHUAC recommends more interactive teaching formats should be explored as an alternative to the standard lecture format to enhance overall and shared learning.

Response: The 2015 ECIT training course will include the implementation of more in class learning assessment activities such as quizzes, in class role plays, and practical exercises to reinforce the training objectives. The training plan will be reviewed for opportunities to better disperse interactive courses (panels, site visits, scenarios) among lectures to reduce the amount of time officers are receiving the standard lecture format.

#8 Seating Configuration

Committee Recommendation: The BHUAC found the large U shaped seating configuration was positive and encouraged more discussions than the standard classroom format. Members believed this group of trainees asked more questions of the presenters due to the layout of the room.

Response: Future ECIT courses will be conducted at the PPB Training Facility. Assigned classrooms will be configured to foster maximum participation by students.

#9 Individuals with Lived Mental Health Experience as Actors in Scenarios

Committee Recommendation: The BHUAC thoroughly discussed the idea of using individuals with lived mental health experience as actors in ECIT training scenarios. After a thoughtful discussion, the committee will make no formal recommendation regarding using individuals with lived mental health experience as actors in scenario training at this time.

Response: Discussion noted.

#10 Diversity

Committee Recommendation: The BHUAC held a robust conversation regarding the importance of diversity within the training group and the instructors. The discussion included information on seniority and the vetting process in an all-volunteer unit.

Response: ECIT is a volunteer program in which officers self-submit their names to participate in the course. Officers are selected to attend the ECIT course based on DOJ selection requirements, supervisor recommendations, and experience. PPB course facilitators are based on positions held within the bureau. The BHU depends on partnerships with outside organizations to assess and determine the appropriate subject matter experts available to support the training.