

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 06-185

Declaring Board Policy for All Multnomah County Sheriff Deputies to Receive Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and to Review the Costs and Processes to Achieve this Policy

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Crisis intervention training (CIT) has been a nationally-recognized program of education for nearly two decades that emphasizes “best practice” protocols for law enforcement officers who, during the course of their duties, come into contact with mentally ill persons. CIT provides practical techniques for law enforcement officers to de-escalate crises and help direct persons with mental illness into treatment instead of inappropriate incarceration.
- b. Multnomah County’s Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) regularly convenes a Persons with Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System Working Group comprised of judges, advocates, treatment providers, prosecutors, corrections officials, and consumers to address the needs of persons with mental illness who enter the criminal justice system.
- c. The Working Group issued reports in 2002, 2003, and 2005 calling for more officer crisis intervention training (CIT), as well as improved dispatch protocols and procedures to assure that CIT-trained officers are sent to the scene and supported. The Working Group has also advocated for the removal of the time and cost barriers to obtain that training.
- d. Oregon Partners In Crisis, a statewide mental health/criminal justice collaboration formed by county commissioners, sheriffs, district attorneys, judges, jail administrators, mental health professionals, defense attorneys, family members and individuals living with mental illness, is also a leading advocate for crisis intervention training for public safety staff, including law enforcement officers.
- e. Multnomah County Sheriff Deputies are the law enforcement officers for unincorporated areas of the County, Wood Village, Maywood Park, the Willamette and Columbia Rivers and for contracted specialty assignments. In the course of their duties, Deputies come into contact with persons with mental illness.
- f. Multnomah County funds programs to assist persons with mental illness and the law enforcement officers who respond to situations that may involve persons with mental illness. These programs are intended to help decrease the numbers of persons who enter the criminal justice system. These programs include:
 1. The Call Center maintained by the County’s Human Services Department. A dedicated Call Center phone line is reserved for police and jail staff to

help them determine if an offender is currently receiving mental health or addiction services, and to help make the link for appropriate action.

2. Project Respond, the County's mobile crisis unit. Law enforcement officers are encouraged to page crisis unit members for assistance in de-escalating a situation, or transporting a person in acute mental crisis to a hospital for evaluation and treatment.
- g. It is imperative that our criminal justice and mental health systems form an effective partnership to reduce the criminalization of those who suffer from mental illness and promote recovery and to stop the Multnomah County Jails from becoming default mental health treatment centers.
- h. Multnomah County Sheriff Bernie Giusto supports this policy and desires to work with the Board, with the assistance of the County Budget Office, to implement it.

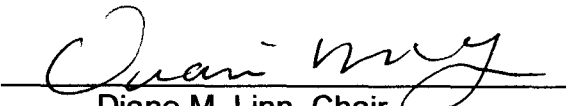
The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. The Board of County Commissioners, as a matter of policy and in keeping with demonstrated "best practices," desires all Multnomah County Sheriff Deputies who, during the course of their duties, come into contact with mentally ill persons to participate in a full, 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training program; and that the Deputies receive the training as soon as practicable.
2. The Budget Office is directed to assist the Sheriff in reviewing the current amount of CIT for each Sheriff Deputy; the one-time-only cost to provide each Sheriff Deputy with a full, 40-hour CIT regimen; the cost to insure that all new Sheriff Deputies receive full CIT; and a timeline that prioritizes this training.
3. The Board of County Commissioners and the Sheriff, with the assistance of the County Budget Office, will discuss the results of this review at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners on December 14, 2006.

ADOPTED this 9th day of November, 2006.

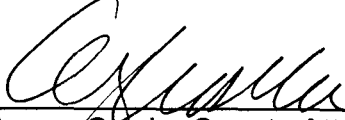


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
Agnes Sowle, County Attorney