



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Crisis Intervention Team Graduates July 18; Program Observes Five Years of Service To Community

FAYETTEVILLE – The Fayetteville-Cumberland County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) will hold its academy graduation at 3:15 p.m. Friday, July 18, at the Cumberland County Detention Center. The graduation will mark the jail diversion program's fifth year of training and service in the community. Members of the media are invited to attend the graduation.

The Fayetteville-Cumberland CIT was established in 2009 and the first class of law enforcement and first responders graduated the CIT academy in June 2009. Twenty-six people representing the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office, Fayetteville Police Department, Veterans Affairs Police and Cumberland County EMS of Cape Fear Valley Health System will graduate from the 2014 academy, bringing the number of CIT-certified public safety professionals in Cumberland County to 526.

"The best part of my job as CIT Program Coordinator is conducting the clinical follow-up after a CIT response," said Cumberland County CIT Program Coordinator Wayne Cannon. "Every day I talk with consumers and family members who praise our law enforcement, paramedics and telecommunicators for their professionalism and quality of their work. CIT has truly become part of the fabric of this community."

The CIT program was first developed by the Memphis, Tenn., Police Department in 1988. The CIT program is designed to increase the safety of the public, the victim and public safety professionals and help patients suffering a mental health crisis receive help instead of incarceration.

The Fayetteville-Cumberland CIT academy is conducted by law enforcement, mental health professionals, evaluators and role-players. Public safety professionals receive training in crisis intervention and de-escalation techniques, detecting symptoms of mental illness, suicide risk, responding to children and adolescents, PTSD, developmental disabilities and other mental health issues.

Since its inception, the Fayetteville-Cumberland CIT has received the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Outstanding County Program Award and the National Alliance on Mental Illness North Carolina 2013 Outstanding CIT Partnership of the Year.

For more information, contact Wayne Cannon at 910-672-5809.

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