



The Nord Center

Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare

For Immediate Release

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Crisis Intervention Training Prepares Local Law Enforcement to Effectively Serve Those in Crisis

Lorain, OH– The Nord Center’s Emergency Crisis Services in collaboration with the Lorain County Mental Health Board (LCMHB) and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Lorain County will present Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for local law enforcement April 4 – 8, 2016. The training will conclude with a Graduation Ceremony on Friday.

Since its inception in 2002, nearly 200 police officers from 14 different Lorain County Departments as well as Corrections Officers, Campus Security Officers, EMTs and Auxiliary Officers have completed the intensive 40-hour training. The program is limited to 24 registrants, and currently includes officers from the Sheriff’s Department, Elyria Police Department, LaGrange Police Department, Wellington Police Department, Amherst Police Department, the Lorain County Metro Parks, as well as, Lorain County Community College and Adult Probation.

“It’s important for law enforcement to gain a better understanding of mental health issues as they are often the first-line responders when someone experiences a psychiatric crisis.” stated Amy Denger, CEO/COO of The Nord Center. “CIT provides them with the skills to respond more effectively and compassionately towards those in the community who struggle with mental illness.”

This year’s training program brings together more than 20 presenters from local agencies including the Lorain County Board of Mental Health (LCMHB), The Nord Center, Lorain Police Department, Veterans Administration, Firelands Counseling Center, Elyria Police Department, Lorain County Community College, Volunteer Guardianship of Lorain County, NAMI, Alcohol & Drug Addiction Services Board of

Lorain County (ADAS), Lorain County Jail, Applewood Centers, Beech Brook, El Centro de Servicios Sociales, Catholic Charities of Lorain County. Highlights of the training include a “Hearing Voices” activity; shadowing of Case Managers at The Nord Center; and the Consumer Panel.

According to a comment from a past participant in the CIT program, “Very good course. The CIT program should be mandatory in the police officer’s basic training.”

The CIT concept was developed following the fatal shooting of a man with a history of mental illness and substance abuse by a Memphis, Tennessee police officer in 1987. Officers are trained to become more adept at de-escalating potentially violent situations and effectively assisting mental health consumers, individuals with substance use issues and those in crisis.

For more information on CIT training in Lorain County, contact the Lorain County Board of Mental Health at (440) 233-2020.

The Nord Center is a private, non-profit agency providing comprehensive behavioral and mental health services to children, adolescents and adults in the greater Lorain County area. Our Child and Adolescent Services (CAS) offers a broad range of individually tailored services for children, adolescents and families experiencing emotional, behavioral and/or relational problems – from everyday challenges to severe and persistent mental illness.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Lorain County is an affiliate of NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness. The National Alliance on Mental Illness is the nation’s largest grassroots organization for people with mental illness and their families. Founded in 1979, NAMI has affiliates in every state and in more than 1,100 local communities across the country. The mission of NAMI Lorain County is to improve the quality of life for those who suffer from disabling brain disorders or mental illness through providing sufferers, their families and friends with educational opportunities, support groups and advocacy in the public arena.

The Lorain County Board of Mental Health is the local public agency that plans, funds, monitors and evaluates a system of services for residents with mental illness in Lorain County.

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