



DANIEL C. O'LEARY
CHIEF OF POLICE

BROOKLINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brookline Massachusetts

Did you know...?

Over the past few years the Brookline Police Department has been focused on better addressing the needs of some of the most vulnerable members of our community, that is, individuals and family members who are struggling with mental illness. In an effort to increase our levels of understanding and compassion, the entire Department, including our Public Safety Dispatchers, has received eight hours of training in [Mental Health First Aid](#). Since this initial training, 53 officers have volunteered to join the Department's Crisis Intervention Team, an integrated unit specially trained to respond to individuals with acute mental health needs. The forty additional hours of training that each of these officers have received focused on recognition of mental illness, de-escalation techniques and the benefits of follow-up care, and while the national model suggests that a successful CIT program will have trained 20- 25% of its officers, the Brookline Police Department is proud to announce that over 43% of our officers have voluntarily participated in this training as of January, 2017.

Our CIT is a true community partnership, whose primary objective is to promote communication and enhance the response of public and private agencies when summoned to intervene with individuals who are mentally ill, developmentally disabled, struggling with substance abuse or experiencing trauma in their lives. Our community partners include DMH, NAMI Massachusetts, The Brookline Community Mental Health Center, BEST (Boston Emergency Services Team), Brookline District Court, Brookline Council on Aging, Brookline School Department, Brookline Housing Authority, The Office of Veterans Affairs, Bournewood Hospital and Arbor-HRI.

To learn more about the CIT program, or to find out about an upcoming Community Stakeholder Meeting, please contact [Sgt. Chris Malinn](#) at (617) 730-2240 or [Sgt. Jennifer Paster](#) at (617) 264-6437.

