

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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KANE SAO, SHERIFF HOST FIRST CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM TRAINING

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The Kane County State's Attorney has completed its first Crisis Intervention Team training for police officers. The specialized training provides officers with tools to better respond when a subject is having a mental health crisis.

The 40-hour training took place Oct. 16-20 with 26 officers from 13 police agencies – Aurora, Batavia, Carpentersville, Elgin, Geneva, Illinois State Police, Kane County Sheriff's Office, North Aurora, St. Charles, Sleepy Hollow, Sugar Grove, Wayne and West Dundee.

The training was held in conjunction with the Kane County Sheriff's Office and took place at the sheriff's office. It was presented with the assistance of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.

National CIT training curriculum was developed by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the University of Memphis CIT Center, CIT International and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. NAMI states that CIT training, "teaches a new set of skills ... the words, approach and body language that convince a person to get help, or defuse a potentially violent encounter."

Presenters included psychologists, social workers, former police officers and assistant state's attorneys.

The Kane County SAO expects to conduct a second training in 2017, and has a larger goal of four additional trainings in 2018.

Kane County State's Attorney **Joe McMahon** said:

"I'm thrilled that we were able to present this training to Kane County police officers. It is so important for the overall health of a community that officers have the best possible tools at their disposal when they respond to a complex situation. This training not only could save the life of a person in crisis, it also could save the officer's own life. Thanks to the members of the county board for generously funding this project, to Sheriff Donald Kramer for his leadership, and to the Fox River Valley Initiative for its support and for creating awareness in the community about the importance of CIT training."

Kane County Sheriff **Don Kramer** said:

“The residents of Kane County are the benefactors of having all police trained in CIT. It took over two years of collaboration between the Kane County State’s Attorney’s Office and the Kane County Sheriff’s Office to bring about having CIT training taught in-house. That means the training will be available to more officers with the possibility of having all 1,200 police officers in Kane County trained over the next five years.”