

CIS training is offered as follows

- On-site at MCES's main facility on the grounds of Norristown State Hospital
- Off-site by arrangement
- Other presentations are available on a variety of topics

CIS training costs are as follows:

- There is no charge for law enforcement and criminal justice professionals based in or serving Montgomery County, PA. The Office of Behavioral Health of the Montgomery County Department of Human Services contracts with MCES to offer CIS training.
- CIS training is available on a fee-for-service basis to applicants from other areas.

For more information please contact:

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Montgomery County Emergency Service, Inc. (MCES) is a non-profit mental health crisis service founded in 1974 serving southeastern Pennsylvania.

MCES provides crisis intervention, treatment and educational services related to (i) life-threatening psychiatric emergencies and serious behavioral health problems and (ii) diverting persons with serious mental illness and other vulnerable individuals from inappropriate criminal justice involvement because of their disability.

MCES services include:

- Crisis Center and Hotline
- Emergency Psychiatric Evaluations
- Inpatient Psychiatric Care
- Crisis Residential Program (CRP)
- Psychiatric Ambulance Services



Crisis Intervention Specialist Program



Montgomery County
Emergency Service
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The Crisis Intervention Specialist (CIS) Program prepares trainees to interact with individuals in a behavioral health crisis. The program mission is to assure that every trainee can recognize and appropriately deal with any mental health situation.

CIS training is given by experienced and highly qualified instructors with contributions by NAMI Montgomery County representatives and Certified Peer Specialists. Role plays and virtual demonstrations and simulations are included.

Training covers mental health law (civil, criminal and competency to stand trial), the types and nature of psychiatric disorders, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. Suicide prevention, medications and terminology are also covered

The first two days of the school are spent in the classroom; while the third day is spent in direct interaction and communication with MCES patients. This helps the officers identify behavioral health disorders and they learn through first hand experience the appropriate ways to deal with those individuals who suffer from a severe mental health disorder.

CIS training builds crisis intervention skills and familiarity with signs of mental illness. It increases empathy for mentally ill individuals, lessens the probability of injury and decrease the probability of criminal justice system involvement

The basic a three-day course provides skills and knowledge in these areas:

- Introduction to Jail Diversion
- Mental Health System Overview
- Mental Health Law
- Crisis Intervention
- Verbal/Non-verbal De-escalation
- Treatment Options/Medications
- Mental Illness/"Psych 101"
- Substance Abuse
- Suicide Prevention

CIS-trainees can provide crisis stabilization, assessment, conflict resolution and referral to community services.

Advanced presentations available on these and other topics:

- Stress and Anger Management
- Trauma
- Crisis Negotiations - Active Listening
- Suicide by Cop
- Predatory Behavior /Stalking
- Sexual Abuse
- Autism/Other Developmental Disabilities
- Hoarding

One-day CIS refreshers training is available on request.

The CIS three-day programs and one-day refresher training are approved for Continuing Law Enforcement Education (CLEE) credit by the Municipal Police Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) and for EMS Con Ed through the PA Department of Health.