

COURSE CONTENT

- 1. Early psychosis intervention & schizophrenia**
 - Overview of signs & symptoms of early psychosis, & focus on early intervention
 - Overview of community resources in Vancouver
 - Specific focus on schizophrenia, including a BCSS partnership presentation.
- 2. Geriatric mental health**
 - Increase awareness of the most common psychiatric illnesses of the older person
 - Overview of basic tools to assess cognitive function & risk in the elderly
 - Overview of services available in Vancouver for the older adult with psychiatric illness.
- 3. Critical incidents & self-care of the officer**
 - Overview of critical incidents & Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
 - Specific focus on the self-care of the officer.
- 4. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder**
 - Overview of FASD
 - Developmental and Behavioural issues.
 - FASD and Criminal Justice System
 - Review of Resources
- 5. Police tactical considerations/ Crisis Negotiations**
 - Assessing the situation & scene with a person in crisis
 - Review of tactical options for police officers.
- 6. Addictions and Mental Health**
 - Overview of drug use, drug-induced psychosis, drug use & mental illness
 - Impact of drug use on the body – duration, physiological effect
 - Specific focus on crystal methamphetamine, cocaine, cannabis & alcohol.
- 7. The Lethal Force Encounter**
 - Overview of 'suicide by cop' (SBC)
 - Preparation for the officer before, during & after a SBC encounter.
- 8. Elder Abuse/ Adult Guardianship**
 - Overview of types of abuse involving the elderly
 - Review of Police files/cases
 - Addressing elder abuse
- 9. Crisis Intervention and Communication**
 - Focus on communication theory & strategies for first responders
 - Practical application through role-play.

Course Objectives

The goals of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) are to:

- Initiate proactive intervention to deter crises which might involve high levels of force
- Minimize the use of force by police officers dealing with the mentally ill or citizens in crisis
- Reduce in risk & injuries to police officers
- Reduce liability through improved crisis management
- Facilitate identification & tracking of individuals through Mental Health Emergency Services who either exhibit chronic behaviours that pose a risk to themselves or others &/or place a significant drain on police resources
- Develop a stronger partnership between police, the mental health community, & the community as a whole
- Increase public confidence & support with police intervention.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course participants will be able to:

- ✓ Identify most common apparent mental disorders & psychiatric illnesses, such as:
 - general concept of mental illness
 - early psychosis
 - bipolar disorder
 - schizophrenia
 - drug psychosis
 - age-related mental illnesses
 - FASD
- ✓ Apply the basic tools to assess behaviors & risk associated with these illnesses
- ✓ Recall services available in Vancouver for this clientele & how to access these services
- ✓ Distinguish tactical considerations for police officers when dealing with people in crisis
- ✓ Recognize the elements of lethal force encounter / victim-initiated homicide
- ✓ Explain the effects of critical incidents on the officers, on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder & the importance of officer's self-care
- ✓ Demonstrate comprehension of Crisis Intervention Theories through practical simulations emphasizing communication skills