



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

BIANCA L. TIRADO, CITY CLERK

HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 4:15 P.M.

Committee Members Present:

Rachel Tomas Morgan, Troy Warner, Sheila Niezgodski, Dr. Oliver Davis, Savino Rivera Jr. *

Committee Members Absent:

Sharon McBride

Other Council Present:

Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers, Karen L. White, Canneth Lee*

Others Present:

Bianca L. Tirado, Lari'onna Green, Veronica Pitt-Payne, Bob Palmer

Presenters:

Casey Hof, Cindy Schulz

Agenda:

Update – Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

Members marked with an asterisk (*) are in virtual attendance.

Please note the attached link for the meeting recording:

<https://docs.southbendin.gov/WebLink/browse.aspx?dbid=0&mediaid=399807>

Committee Chair Rachel Tomas Morgan called to order the Health and Public Safety Committee meeting at 4:28 P.M.

Officer Casey Hof, South Bend Police Department (SBPD), 701 West Sample Street, South Bend, IN 46601, and Cindy Schulz, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) with Oaklawn, 415 East Madison Street, South Bend, IN 46617, gave a PowerPoint presentation about the St. Joseph County Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). They shared the training syllabus and showed year-over-year trends in mental health calls.

Committee Chair Tomas Morgan asked that Committee and Councilmembers limit themselves to one (1) question for the sake of time. She instructed them to send her any further questions.

Citizen Member Savino Rivera Jr. asked about the CIT gold certification.

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Officer Hof said the St. Joseph County CIT is among nine (9) programs in the world with this level of certification. She explained the criteria for gold certification.

Councilmember Ophelia Gooden-Rodgers asked how responders determine whether the crisis team is needed.

Officer Hof said CIT is called when the individual in crisis does not meet the criteria for emergency detention.

Cindy Schulz added that if there is potential for violence, the call will be handled by the police.

Committee Member Dr. Oliver Davis asked about the CIT training program and inquired about extending training opportunities to the Community Police Review Board (CPRB).

Officer Hof said the full forty (40) hour training is designed for law enforcement officers, but the program has been adapted for dispatchers and other civilian trainees in the past.

Committee Member Troy Warner thanked the presenters. He spoke about underreporting, noting that domestic disputes and overdoses are not always classified as mental health calls even when mental health is a factor.

Committee Member Sherry Bolden-Simpson expressed support for the program and commented on the importance of accurate data collection.

Officer Hof said they are launching an app which will help improve data capture.

Committee Member Sheila Niezgodski asked about response protocol for calls that escalate.

Officer Hof said dispatch has a list of CIT-trained officers who can be called in if needed. She emphasized the importance of building relationships and educating families to ask for a CIT officer when calling on behalf of a family member in crisis.

Councilmember Karen L. White spoke in support of the program.

Council President Canneth Lee thanked the presenters.

Committee Chair Tomas Morgan said she would email her data-related questions. She asked what a successful interaction looks like for CIT.

Officer Hof said she considers an interaction successful when an individual gets the help they need without the use of force. She spoke about the importance of building rapport with people in crisis and their families, and how this improves outcomes in future interactions.

With no further business, Committee Chair Tomas Morgan adjourned the Health and Public Safety Committee meeting at 5:11 P.M.



Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Tomas Morgan

Rachel Tomas Morgan, Committee Chair

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