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MHRB Announces CIT Officer of the Year Award Winners

Annual award recognizes exceptional law enforcement officers who use Crisis Intervention Team training

SPRINGFIELD, OH (Apr. 28, 2021) – Mental Health Recovery Board of Clark, Greene & Madison Counties (MHRB) today announced the recipients of its annual Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officer of the Year Award. This special recognition is given to one law enforcement officer from each county of MHRB’s service area who demonstrates exceptional use of their CIT training.

The recipients of the award are:

- **Officer Paul Raffoul**, Yellow Springs Police Department, who is recognized for “numerous lifesaving events” involving CPR, Narcan and de-escalation techniques.
- **Detective Charles “Brett” Adams**, Springfield Police Department, who “is dedicated to serving his community with the greatest care and compassion, specifically during times of personal crises” and “truly embraces the basic principles of CIT... with a true passion for helping others and ensuring they receive the necessary and proper care.”
- **Officer Ryan Davis**, London Police Division, whose nomination noted a special relationship he developed with a person in crisis that ended with a safe resolution and a hug

“We are proud to recognize these exceptional public servants, who use CIT training techniques to ensure every person in Clark, Greene and Madison counties receives the help they need during a crisis,” said Dr. Greta Mayer, CEO of MHRB. “And we are grateful to live and work in communities where responders de-escalate critical situations. Congratulations to our Officers of the Year and thank you for your service!”

All nominees for the award must have completed MHRB’s 40-hour CIT program and currently serve at a law enforcement agency in Clark, Greene or Madison County. CIT is an internationally recognized best practice for law enforcement as they respond to crisis situations involving individuals in the community living with mental illness. Participants learn about topics such as forensic monitoring, de-escalation techniques, psychiatric medications, trauma, and voluntary and involuntary hospitalization and client rights, while also participating in interactive hallucination simulations and role plays.

“CIT training is one way that MHRB and law enforcement partner to strengthen communities and pathways to care for mental health or substance use,” said Dr. Mayer. “We’re pleased to

announce that local officers are not only recognized locally by MHRB but that one officer also was recognized statewide.”

Detective Adams earned the additional distinction of being named the statewide CIT Officer of the Year by the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) of Ohio. Adams was honored at the 2021 Ohio CIT Advanced Training Conference on April 16.

“When considering nominees for the award, I immediately thought of Detective Adams,” said Lieutenant Allison Elliot of the Springfield Police Department, who nominated Adams for the award. In her nomination, Elliot shared two examples of when Adams used his CIT training to help citizens who were in a mental health crisis. In both circumstances, Adams responded to citizens who were threatening suicide and instead provide them with help. “He did so with the utmost compassion, empathy, care, and dedication. However...Detective Adams truly embraces the basic principles of CIT and he regularly applies them while interacting with individuals with severe mental illness.”

For more information about mental health and substance use resources in Clark, Greene and Madison counties, please visit the MHRB website at www.mhrb.org.

ABOUT MHRB

Mental Health Recovery Board of Clark, Greene & Madison Counties (MHRB) assists partners, stakeholders, residents, and anyone at risk of mental health or substance use concerns in our three-county area, providing pathways to mental health and addiction services. In collaboration with more than 20 care providers, the board advocates for the mental health needs and facilitates delivery of quality care for all ages, regardless of income or ability to pay.

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