



CABLE

CONNECTICUT ALLIANCE TO BENEFIT LAW ENFORCEMENT

Opening Minds, Saving Lives

2025 Statewide Crisis Intervention Team Conference

April 4, 2025
Hartford, Connecticut

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:30 A.M. CHECK-IN & BREAKFAST

9:00 A.M. PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS & NATIONAL ANTHEM

Hartford Police Department Honor Guard

Officer Sandy Quinonez, Bridgeport Police Department

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Louise Pyers, M.S.

Executive Director & Founder

Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement

Dana Begin, OTR/L, MPA,

Director, Evidence-Based Practices and Grants Division

CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services,

Office of the Commissioner

9:30 A.M. UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY INTERVENTION IN PSYCHOSIS

Vinod Srihari, MD

Carrie Veillette, MS, LCSW

Yale School of Medicine, Specialized Treatment Early in Psychosis (STEP) Program

11:15 A.M. KEYNOTE ADDRESS

PATIENT NOT PRISONER: HOW CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS HAVE SAVED MY LIFE

Melissa Owens

12:30 P.M. AWARDS LUNCHEON

Chief Michael Fallon Memorial CIT Officer of the Year

Officer Paul Buchanan Peer Support Officer of the Year Award Mobile

Crisis/CIT Clinician of the Year Award

CIT Moment of the Year Award

Rev. Dr. Paul Krampitz Legacy Award

2:00 P.M. BEYOND THE BADGE: EMPATHY IN ACTION – THE CIT DIFFERENCE

Randy Kaye

3:30 P.M. CLOSING REMARKS

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



Renee DiNino

Director of Community Affairs, WFSB
Host of Hello Connecticut with Renee DiNino,
Amazing K9 Duo's, Lost & Pound.

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS



Dana Begin, OTR/L, MPA

*Director, Evidence-Based Practices and Grants Division,
CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services,
Office of the Commissioner*

Dana Begin is the Director of the Evidence-Based Practices and Grants Division at the Office of the Commissioner (OOC) within the State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). Dana is a registered and licensed Occupational Therapist (OT) and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Therapy from Quinnipiac University (2000). She also holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Connecticut (2020).

Dana has more than 18 years of experience in the mental health field and joined DMHAS in 2005. She is the creator of a functional assessment called the *Learning Inventory of Skills Development* (L.I.S.T.) which is a tool that has been used statewide for youth and adults ages 14 and older. Dana has published an article in the Occupational Journal in Mental Health (2017) and has presented her functional assessment (L.I.S.T.) at national conferences.

In her current role, Dana has oversight of the statewide implementation of 988, she has also been instrumental in the expansion of adult crisis services statewide, including the implementation of the first ever 23-hour Crisis Stabilization Unit and the first ever Peer Respite program in Connecticut.

PATIENT NOT PRISONER: HOW CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAMS HAVE SAVED MY LIFE



Melissa Owens

Founder, *Patient Not Prisoner* Program

Guest Speaker/Trainer/Facilitator, *Patient Not Prisoner*

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<https://www.patientnotprisoner.com/>

Melissa Owens has been successfully living with bipolar illness since 2000, despite experiencing six major psychotic episodes and involuntary hospitalizations. Through her ***Patient Not Prisoner*** program, she collaborates with CIT systems nationwide in an effort to reduce the number of people living with mental illness from entering the criminal justice system. In 2023, Melissa was granted the ***Fred Frese CIT International Award for a Person with Lived Experience*** in recognition of her efforts and contributions to the goals and mission of CIT. Melissa has conducted presentations and training for numerous governmental and nonprofit agencies on the local, state, and international levels.

During her presentation, Melissa shares a video she took of herself in the midst of severe psychosis during a manic episode in 2017. Attendees are able to analyze an entire array of behaviors and symptoms she was experiencing. Melissa is in complete remission, and no longer demonstrates any symptoms of the mania she experienced during her episodes.

Born and raised in the suburbs of Maryland, she attended undergraduate and graduate school at the University of Maryland and surrounding colleges and universities. Melissa currently lives in Baltimore and has taught history and psychology for over 30 years in the local public school system.

Her presentations provide audience members a unique opportunity to compare the stark contrast between her psychotic episode and her current normal mental state and take part in an open-ended discussion about her life story and the role CIT has played in her recovery. She is extremely grateful for the dedication and ongoing support of the Anne Arundel County, Maryland CIT Response System. Their tireless efforts secured Melissa's safety and ensured that she was directed toward mental health facilities, and not into the criminal justice system. She credits their efforts as being responsible for her ability to live a happy, healthy life, and providing her the opportunity to further the mission of CIT by sharing her story with others.



UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY INTERVENTION IN PSYCHOSIS



Vinod Srihari, MD

Staff Psychiatrist, Connecticut Mental Health Center

Director, Program for Specialized Treatment Early in Psychosis (STEP)

Professor of Psychiatry, Yale University

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www.step.yale.edu

Dr. Srihari is a Staff Psychiatrist at the Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven and a Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University School of Medicine. He directs the Program for Specialized Treatment Early in Psychosis (STEP, www.step.yale.edu) which hosts a statewide network of clinics (the STEP Learning Collaborative, www.ctearlypsychosisnetwork.org) that aims to reduce delays to care and improve the outcomes for all individuals with first-episode psychosis in Connecticut.

Dr. Srihari's scholarly focus is on improving the outcomes of early course schizophrenia spectrum disorders. His research interests span the translational continuum from studies of causes and mechanisms to developing new treatments, services, and policies to improve systems of care. As Director of the STEP Program, he leads activities that connect this research to the missions of delivering a model service (the STEP Clinic), disseminating clinical best practices (via Learning Health Networks), education and workforce development and influencing policies that support the public health mission of early Intervention for schizophrenia spectrum disorders.

In his curricular work, he has led the development and implementation of an Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) based approach to enabling psychiatrists in training to ask, access, appraise and apply the best available scientific evidence to their practice and to audit the health of the populations they are responsible for.

Dr. Srihari also consults with academic and non-academic healthcare systems that seek to initiate or refine early intervention services for recent onset or 'first-episode' psychosis that aims to reduce delays to care and improve the outcomes for all individuals with first-episode psychosis in Connecticut.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY INTERVENTION IN PSYCHOSIS



Carrie Veillette, MS, LCSW

Early Psychosis Clinician and Content Expert

Primary Clinician, STEP Program

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Carrie began her career in the mental health field during her undergraduate degree at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) at The Grove School in Madison, CT - a residential school for children and adolescents with behavioral and psychological challenges. In her senior year of her undergraduate degree, Carrie completed her clinical internship at Bridgeport Hospital's inpatient adult psychiatric unit running group therapy for patients aimed at improving quality of life. She graduated cum laude with her Bachelors in Health and Human Services with a concentration in Therapeutic Recreation and was the recipient of the Jack Gregory Award for Outstanding Academic Performance. After graduation Carrie received her certification as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) and was hired from her internship, working on both the adult and geriatric psychiatric units, as well as in their REACH program - an Intensive Outpatient (IOP) for children and adolescents with psychiatric disorders.

Carrie went on to receive her Master's Degree in Therapeutic Recreation with a concentration in Mental Health and Substance Abuse at SCSU. During this time, she also worked part-time as a graduate assistant to the dean of the Health and Human Service's department, teaching undergraduate courses and aiding in program improvement measures. Shortly after graduating with her MS, Carrie was hired by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), at the Connecticut Mental Health Center as a CTRS within their Community Support Program (CSP). Here, she used her certification to gain expertise in case management and quality of life improvement with individuals diagnosed with chronic severe mental illnesses (SMI). In 2016 she returned to SCSU to obtain her Masters in Social Work within the Co-Occurring Disorders track and was inducted into the Phi Alpha Honors Society in 2019.

Upon completion of her MSW, she began her work with Yale University's STEP clinic, bringing to the program her expertise in case management and community resources, as well as long-standing experience in working with individuals with SMI. Here she continues to provide client and family psychoeducation of community resources and case management, but also provides individual psychotherapy to young adults early in their course of psychiatric treatment while coordinating care through an interdisciplinary team that promotes overall wellness and recovery.

BEYOND THE BADGE: EMPATHY IN ACTION – THE CIT DIFFERENCE

Randye Kaye



PM Drive Anchor/All Things Considered Host, WSHU Radio

Podcast Co-host and Creator, *Schizophrenia: 3 Moms in the Trenches*

Author, *Ben Behind His Voices*

Speaker/Author, *Randye Kaye LLC*

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Randye Kaye is the co-creator and host of the popular podcast, *Schizophrenia: 3 Moms in the Trenches*. She is the Connecticut State Trainer for NAMI's Family-to-Family Course and is the author of *Ben Behind His Voices: One Family's Journey From the Chaos of Schizophrenia to Hope* (Rowman & Littlefield), and *Happier Made Simple: Choose Your Words. Change Your Life* (Front Porch Press, 2022).

Randye is also the PM Drive News Anchor/All Things Considered Host on WSHU Public Radio and an actor, voice talent, and speaker. She has spoken at CIT International, American Psychiatric Association, APNA, and The Missouri Behavioral Health Council.

Her son, Ben, has been hospitalized over ten times for schizophrenia, and until recently was treated with respect, compassion, and dignity by CIT-trained officers. This empathy helped him to a period of recovery which included full-time work and two years of college. Recently, though, in a brush with the law without CIT, he was arrested and incarcerated, pre-trial for over 10 months.

2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

CIT/Mobile Crisis Clinician of the Year

Alisa Palmer-Winston, LPC

Meriden Police Department
Rushford

Lauren Rooney, LPC

Windsor Police Department
Community Health Resources

Officer Paul Buchanan Memorial Peer Support Award

Sergeant Rodney Valdes

Connecticut State Police

CIT Moment of the Year

Officer Wayne Greener

Coventry Police Department

Chief Michael Fallon Memorial CIT Leadership Award

CIT Officer of the Year

Officer Mark Salvati

New Haven Police Department

The Reverend Dr. Paul Krampitz Legacy Award



The Reverend Dr. Paul Krampitz Legacy Award is presented to an individual whose life and work reflect the same selfless service and compassionate leadership that Reverend Krampitz exemplified throughout his life. Reverend Krampitz served as a guiding light for many, as the pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church in Cromwell and in his role as a police chaplain. Those seeking counsel, comfort, or a moment of peace knew they could always find it in Paul.

Known for his dedication, humility, and calm strength, Reverend Krampitz's service touched countless lives. He was deeply committed to the well-being of first responders, offering a listening ear and a caring presence in the most difficult of times and his work as a police chaplain demonstrated his extraordinary ability to offer support to those on the front lines, showing empathy and understanding to both officers and the broader public they served.

This award honors someone who, like Reverend Krampitz, demonstrates a deep sense of compassion, empathy, and an unwavering commitment to the betterment of others. The recipient of this award embodies the values of integrity, kindness, and service, and is recognized for their efforts to make a meaningful difference in the lives of first responders and their community. Reverend Krampitz's legacy continues to inspire those who knew him and those who never had the chance to meet him. This Legacy Award is a tribute to those who carry forward his mission of kindness, support, and faithful service to all.

CABLE MISSION

The Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement (CABLE) is a non-profit, 501 (C)(3) research and training collaborative whose mission is to serve as an interdisciplinary resource and catalyst for law enforcement and community collaboration, support and education.

CABLE brings community and law enforcement resources together to address common issues related to mental health. CABLE's strength is its ability to bring together people from diverse perspectives who are committed to working collaboratively for the common good.

CABLE's Board of Directors, staff and training faculty are comprised of a cross-section of stakeholders:

- municipal and state law enforcement personnel
- mental health professionals
- families and persons with mental illness
- educational institutions

For more than 20 years, CABLE has been delivering Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training to first responders in Connecticut.

CABLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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THANK YOU

The 2025 Statewide CIT Conference is generously supported by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

