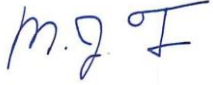
	Administrative Written Directive	Chapter 5 Procedures	PAGE 1 OF 5
	Arlington County Police Department Directive Manual		DISTRIBUTION: ALL EMPLOYEES
			DATE: AUGUST 3, 2015
			<input type="checkbox"/> NEW <input type="checkbox"/> AMMENDS <input type="checkbox"/> RESCINDS
			By Authority of the Chief of Police  Chief M. Jay Farr

570.03 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

- I. **Purpose** - The Department shall exercise leadership in the community when responding to incidents involving persons with mental illness who are in crisis. An immediate and well-executed response can make a major difference in the proper disposition of the case and enhance the quality of life and safety of all concerned.

- II. **Policy** - It is the policy of the Department to promptly respond to and seek to resolve calls where a person with mental illness is in need of services. It is the duty of police officers responding to a mental illness call to provide for the safety of all persons and attempt to assist the person through the immediate crisis. When the person remains in crisis and exhibits signs that they are a danger to themselves or others, or that they are unable to care for themselves, officers shall take the person into emergency custody to have them evaluated by a mental health professional. In cases that do not warrant an emergency custody detention, officers shall endeavor to assist the person by referring them to mental health care providers for their continued well-being, beyond the immediate call for assistance.

- III. **Definitions**
 - A. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officer – An officer who has received specialized training in recognizing symptoms of mental illness, identifying persons who are in crisis, and using communication skills to assist in de-escalating potentially dangerous situations.

 - B. Crisis – A person is in crisis when they are unable to cope with internal or external stimuli, creating an inability to function at a reasonable level, thus creating a risk of harm to themselves or others.

 - C. Mental Illness – A condition described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM V) in which a person may experience random or disorganized thought patterns, or demonstrate

bizarre or unusual behavior.

- D. Emergency Custody Order (ECO) – Refer to VA Code §37.2-808 for adults and §16.1-340 for juveniles.
- E. Temporary Detention Order (TDO) – Refer to VA Code §37.2-809 for adults and §16.1-340.1 for juveniles.
- F. CIT Program Supervisor – the Chief of Police shall designate a Captain in the Operations Division to oversee the CIT program.

IV. **Procedure**

A. **Responsibilities**

- 1. Sworn Officer's Responsibilities
 - a. Calls for service which pertain to subjects with a suspected mental illness will be dispatched based upon officer availability, however, a CIT Officer should be dispatched if requested and one is available. These calls for service include but are not limited to ECO service.
 - b. A shift supervisor shall monitor dispatched calls involving suspected mental illness and ECO service.
 - c. All officers who respond to calls involving a subject with a suspected mental illness and detain the subject shall complete a CIT Supplement and the Transfer of Custody form when appropriate.
- 2. CIT Program Supervisor's Responsibilities
 - a. A copy of all incident reports related to mentally ill subjects shall be forwarded to the CIT Program Supervisor for review and possible follow-up.
 - b. The CIT Program Supervisor shall have oversight on CIT training and ensure that Operations personnel are CIT certified, at a percentage determined by the Chief of Police.
 - c. The CIT Program Supervisor shall coordinate with the Department of Human Services (DHS) CIT Coordinator to identify program issues and collaborate on effective means to make improvements to the CIT Program and police response to calls involving the mentally ill.
 - d. The CIT supervisor shall submit a yearly evaluation of the CIT program, to the Chief of Police, by no later than the end of January for each preceding calendar year.

B. Dispatched Calls Involving Persons with Mental Illness

1. Upon arrival at the scene, the responding officer shall take appropriate action to restore order and ensure the safety of all present while determining what has transpired. If weapons are present at the scene of any incident involving a person who is suspected to be mentally unstable, officers shall ensure that the mentally unstable person does not have access to them.
2. Once the scene has been stabilized, the officer shall evaluate the situation to determine if DHS Emergency Services are required. If an ECO has already been issued by a Magistrate, the ECO gives the officer the authority to immediately detain the subject. If there is no issued ECO, the officer must determine whether or not to initiate a paperless ECO and take the person into custody to have them evaluated by DHS. Paperless ECOs are authorized under the VA Code §37.2-808(G). The decision to initiate a paperless ECO is made based on circumstances that indicate the person is a danger to themselves or others, or they are unable to care for themselves. If the person is willing to be evaluated by DHS on a voluntary basis, an ECO may not be necessary. In cases where the criteria for an ECO are not met, the officers may consider other options including having the person speak with a DHS representative or advising the person of available mental health services. However, officers shall **not** detain any person against their will who does not meet the ECO criteria unless there is some other legal authority to do so. Officers may contact the on-call DHS therapist to discuss the situation and help determine the best course of action.
3. In cases where the officer is able to assist the individual through the crisis without the involvement of a mental health professional, the individual will still be encouraged to seek additional professional assistance if appropriate.
4. If the investigating officer learns that the mentally ill subject has committed a crime, the officer may arrest the person under the appropriate criminal statute. In that case, the officer should advise the Magistrate of the subject's suspected mental illness. The Sheriff's Office has the ability to provide DHS services to the subject. In cases where the subject has committed a minor crime, officers are encouraged to divert the subject to mental health treatment, when possible and/or appropriate.
5. Before transporting a mentally ill subject for evaluation, it is recommended that the officer contact the on-call DHS therapist to discuss the case and to determine whether the person should be

taken to the Virginia Hospital Center (VHC) Emergency Room, the Crisis Intervention Center, or some other location for their evaluation. If the location used for the evaluation is VHC, the officer has the option to transfer custody of the subject to VHC Security Officers while the subject awaits evaluation. Officers shall not transfer custody of juvenile subjects or subjects whose violent or disorderly behavior poses a threat to the public safety. In all cases where custody is transferred to VHC Security, the officer shall complete a Transfer of Custody Form.

6. The DHS therapist shall conduct an evaluation of the detained subject to determine if involuntary detention in a mental health facility is warranted. If deemed necessary by DHS, a TDO shall be issued by the Magistrate. If DHS determines that the subject does not meet the criteria for a TDO, the person shall be released. In some cases, the subject may agree to be voluntarily admitted to a mental health facility or may be admitted to the hospital for medical reasons. In most cases where a TDO is not issued, no additional officer involvement is necessary.
7. If a TDO is issued, an officer may be dispatched to pick up the TDO from the Magistrate's Office and fax it to the subject's location if the fax location is secure. Alternatively, the officer may deliver the TDO to the subject's location. After the TDO has been secured, one of the officers on the call shall take custody of the subject, deliver them to the mental treatment facility specified on the TDO, and execute the TDO. Transportation of the subject to the treatment facility shall be in accordance with departmental policy governing the transportation of prisoners, see Manual Directive 536.05 *Arrestees*.
8. Officers who take custody of a subject based on an ECO or TDO shall determine on a case-by-case basis, if there is a need to take possession of any firearms found at the scene for safekeeping or evidence. The execution of an ECO or TDO upon a subject does not automatically make them ineligible to possess firearms in the future. Code of VA §18.2-308.1:3 states it is unlawful for a subject who has been detained on a TDO and either 1) been ordered to undergo mental treatment at the subsequent court hearing or 2) subsequently agreed to voluntary admission for mental treatment, to purchase, possess, or transport a firearm. Officers may determine if a subject is currently prohibited from possessing a firearm by running a person check through VCIN/NCIC using the purpose code "F".

9. If a TDO has been issued for a subject and the subject escapes from police custody before delivery to the specified mental treatment facility, Code of VA §37.2-833 authorizes the officer who had custody of the subject to obtain a warrant for Escape from Lawful Custody from a Magistrate, and to specify where the subject should be taken when apprehended (i.e. to jail or to the mental treatment facility).
10. A CIT Supplement form shall be completed for every ECO, TDO, paperless ECO and attempted suicide. The form shall be included with the police incident report.

C. Escapee from Mental Treatment Facilities

1. Copies of all teletypes received concerning escapees from mental treatment facilities in the local area (Fairfax County, Falls Church and Alexandria) should be distributed to patrol officers for review.
2. If a call is dispatched concerning an escape from a mental health treatment facility, a supervisor shall be made aware of the situation. If the location of the escapee is known, at least two officers should be dispatched.
3. The responding officers shall first determine if a warrant is on file for the escaped subject. Code of VA §37.2-834 states that when a person involuntarily committed to a mental treatment facility escapes, the director of the facility may obtain a warrant from a Magistrate, ordering the person be taken into custody and returned to the facility or to an appropriate state facility in the area.
4. If there is a warrant on file, the officer may arrest the subject and arrange for the subject's transportation to the appropriate facility. If there is no warrant on file for the subject, officers shall treat the situation as a normal dispatched call for a person with mental illness and follow the procedures listed above. If the subject is arrested, the officer shall advise the Magistrate and the Sheriff's Office deputies of the escapee status of the offender. If there is no basis for the subject to be involuntarily detained and the subject has not committed a criminal offense, the complainant should be advised to deal directly with the facility concerned in order to secure the subject's return.