



MENDOCINO COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
1120 S. Dora Street ♦ Ukiah, CA 95482

RECOMMENDATION to the BOARD of SUPERVISORS:

The Mendocino County Behavioral Health Advisory Board strongly recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to implement Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for all law enforcement officers in Mendocino County. CIT is a nationally recognized training program that has demonstrated benefits to both law enforcement officers and the people they interact with daily. The money has been sitting in the *Stepping-Up* allocation for three years to provide this training, yet for various reasons it hasn't been used.

The Behavioral Health Board believes it is imperative for law enforcement officers (and first responders) to receive training related to interactions with people with mental illness, substance abuse disorders, and developmental disorders. CIT training teaches conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques for potentially dangerous situations and is highly regarded in reducing stigma and, most importantly, decreasing needless injuries including death, to all. The model best suited for our county would be to train local trainers in the full program who could then be contracted for service as required by agencies within Mendocino County.

We don't need a new building to provide education and training. We need action and cooperation. Your support is now needed to ensure CIT is available and provided to all Mendocino County law enforcement officers. The Behavioral Health Advisory Board recommends CIT be implemented by the end of this year.

Passed by Behavioral Health Advisory Board
at the regular meeting on March 21, 2018