

## CIT Program History

The Colonial Area Crisis Intervention Team was founded in 2012 under a grant from the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services (DBHDS). This grant enabled the CIT to forge necessary partnerships to offer training to local law enforcement officers.

CIT-trained individuals know the signs of behavioral health crises as well as pivotal de-escalation techniques.

Since the program's inception, more than 260 community members have been trained, including more than 215 police officers.

Another DBHDS grant awarded in 2014 enabled Colonial Behavioral Health and Riverside Doctors' Hospital Williamsburg to develop and open the Colonial Area Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center (CITAC); a subsequent grant in 2015 enabled expansion of the center's operating hours.

With the center now open, law enforcement officers in CBH's catchment area may bring individuals experiencing behavioral health crises to CITAC for assessment and care.



CITAC is a partnership among Colonial Behavioral Health, Riverside Doctors' Hospital Williamsburg and the law enforcement agencies of James City County, City of Poquoson, City of Williamsburg, York County and the College of William & Mary.



## CITAC Colonial Area Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center

**1500 Commonwealth Avenue  
Williamsburg, VA 23185**

CITAC is located inside the  
Emergency Department at Riverside  
Doctors' Hospital Williamsburg

**Phone: 757-378-5555**  
Fax: 767-903-4992

**Officers, please call to arrange for  
services at CITAC**

**[www.ColonialBehavioralHealth.org](http://www.ColonialBehavioralHealth.org)**

Serving James City County, City of Poquoson,  
City of Williamsburg and York County

## What is CITAC?

The Colonial Area Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center (CITAC) is an incarceration diversion program designed to support law enforcement officers who encounter individuals experiencing behavioral health crises.

Officers who encounter an individual in crisis are able to transport the individual to CITAC, which is housed inside the Emergency Department at Riverside Doctors' Hospital Williamsburg (RDHW). Transporting the individuals to CITAC allows trained medical and behavioral health staff to evaluate the individual's needs and proceed with appropriate care.

Prior to CITAC's inception, placing an individual under an Emergency Custody Order meant law enforcement officers could expect to spend up to eight hours waiting in a hospital.

Now, a CITAC officer is in place to accept a transfer of custody, enabling officers to leave the hospital and respond to other calls.

CITAC is open daily from noon to midnight.

Within CITAC, Colonial Behavioral Health Emergency Services staff, a Conservator of the Peace and the RDHW medical staff stand ready and waiting to assist law enforcement officers.

As an on-duty law enforcement officer, if you encounter an individual in crisis, call **757-378-5555**. If CITAC is open, you will be directed there, and the CITAC team will be alerted to your impending arrival.

When you arrive at RDHW, the team will be ready, and the CITAC officer will discuss the process of transferring custody.

For the individual being transported to CITAC, the medical and CBH staff will be prepared to complete assessments in an effort to determine the best course for care.

If a Temporary Detention Order is required, the originating law enforcement agency will be contacted to send an officer back to CITAC to transport the individual.

We recognize the importance of facilitating a quick and easy transition at CITAC, and will make every effort to minimize the amount of time law enforcement officers spend on site.

## How CITAC Works

### **Step 1: Call 757-378-5555 while in the field**

Colonial Behavioral Health Emergency Services is on-call 24/7. Call us as soon as you encounter someone in crisis to consult with us. The on-call service provider will let you know if CITAC is available.

### **Step 2: Once you have an ECO, coordinate where to go**

CITAC is open between noon and midnight daily. If you are directed to CITAC, go to the Emergency Department at RDHW.

### **Step 3: CITAC will be ready for your arrival**

When you arrive at the ambulance entrance at RDHW, a room will be ready for the client and the team will be on standby. The CITAC officer will consult with you and discuss a transfer of custody.

It is CITAC's goal to ensure your time spent executing an ECO is as short as possible. **Officers are relieved of ECO standby for an average of three hours per visit.**