



## INITIATIVE NEWS

February 25, 2014

*In support of a NC Center for Safer Schools recommendations "to develop resources to ensure access to training in Youth Mental Health First Aid," the North Carolina Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse sponsored the first event in North Carolina to train people to become Certified Instructors in the Youth version of **Mental Health First Aid**. Thirty-two participants attended 5 days of training and were certified as instructors on February 21, 2014. They will be returning to their communities to deliver the 8 hour course to anyone who interacts with youth.*

**DATA!** *Assuring the most reliable reporting and analysis of data for the Crisis Solutions Initiative will be key to understanding our success. The Division of MHDDSAS would like to thank participants from LME-MCOs, State Operated Facilities, NC Hospital Association, DMA, CCNC, Daymark Recovery Services, Vidant Medical Center, and NAMI-Wake for agreeing to join a cross-systems workgroup. The Performance Data Workgroup had their first meeting on February 10 and began to dig into the data sources and methods used to report on the Crisis Solutions Initiative Scorecard.*

*The number of **Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)** trained law enforcement officers increased by more than 20% during this past year. There are now 5,914 CIT-trained law enforcement officers in North Carolina from 331 participating law enforcement agencies in our state. (North Carolina CIT End of Year 2013 report)*

**"First Responder" duties.** *In the Behavioral Health arena, agencies and Licensed Independent Practitioners who are contracted providers with LME-MCOs have obligations to be available to consumers in crisis, including for after-hours response. Earlier intervention and response by someone with an established relationship can often prevent a consumer's visit to an emergency department. An after-hours plan to "call 911 or go to your local emergency department" is not acceptable. The Division of MHDDSAS is implementing a new strategy to promote awareness and compliance of these requirements. Beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, LMEMCOs will be utilizing new routine provider monitoring tools. The overall tool has been streamlined from more than 150 elements to fewer than 20. Newly included among the 20 is the first responder requirement.*

*Service providers across the state began implementing the new **Comprehensive Crisis Intervention and Prevention Plan** section of person centered plans on January 1, 2014. Feedback from the providers and other stakeholders has been streaming in to the Division of MHDDSAS and is substantially positive about the utility of this tool. However, we have been asked to be more specific in our guidance/instructions for use. The Division will release a stakeholder survey within the next week and will finalize changes in the tool itself and provide clarity for using it within the next month. Help us by completing a survey or sending your comments directly to [contactdmh@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:contactdmh@dhhs.nc.gov).*

**CRISISSOLUTIONSNC.org.** *Our new website is ready for your review! Stakeholders asked for an easy to access centralized website for finding and understanding the crisis resources available in every North Carolina county. Check out our first version and let us know how it is working for you. We want to make this new website very public by mid-March. Help us assure the accuracy of information about your home county and let us know about your successes in implementing good crisis solutions in your communities which we can highlight here. Contact us through the email link right on the site.*