



London Police Officers Colin Peterson and Frank White completed a 40-hour training session in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). Sessions were held in Clark County with graduation held Aug. 31.

Two London Police officers complete CIT

BY DEAN SHIPLEY

Staff Writer



Two London police officers graduated recently from Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), which was held Aug. 31 in Springfield. Colin Peterson and Frank White completed the five-day, 40 hours of training, which was conducted at the Greene County Career Center, criminal justice academy.

“CIT is an internationally recognized best practice for law enforcement as they respond to crisis situations involving individuals in the community with mental illness,” said Roselin Runnels, CIT coordinator for the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Clark, Greene and Madison counties. “Officers receive both didactic and experiential training to improve their skills for responding to these crisis situations. More than twenty mental health, social service, legal and law enforcement professionals from the three county MHRB area provided instruction for the participants.”

London Police Chief David Wiseman said of adding two officers, Peterson and White, to CIT brings him closer to his goal to eventually have all officers undergo CIT. Wiseman said it’s valuable training “because of the diverse population we serve.”

“It gives them greater insight in dealing with people on an individual basis in relation to the proper way to proceed.”

Police academy training provides six hours of CIT training. Wiseman said the 40-hour course is comprehensive. Since 2006 the MHRB and local law enforcement have trained six officers in the London Police Department. “CIT training creates a more compassionate approach to those in our community who struggle with mental illness,” said Dr. Kent Youngman, CEO of the MHRB. Sharon Woolf, N.A.M.I. Director for Clark and Greene Counties, said. “Officers gain skills and families are more confident that their family member will be treated with respect and dignity in a crisis situation.”

A total of 24 officers from Clark, Greene and Madison attended the training.