



Mental Evaluation Unit



**Detective III
Elizabeth Reyes**

**Officer-in Charge,
MEU Training Unit**

November 21, 2024

Understanding In-Service Training for Officers Responding to Incidents Involving Persons in a Mental Health Crisis



MENTAL EVALUATION UNIT (MEU)

HISTORY

On September 3, 1991, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors convened the Incarcerated Mentally Ill Task Force (IMITF), comprised of concerned governmental and private agencies charged with addressing growing public concerns about the **increased forced hospitalization and incarceration of mentally ill citizens.**

In July 1992, the IMITF findings concluded that there was a societal failure to adequately meet the needs of the county's mentally ill population. The task force's primary recommendation to resolve this problem was the implementation of a **Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Team (SMART) pilot program.**



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MEU OVERVIEW

- In 1993, Los Angeles became one of the first communities to partner LAPD officers with mental health professionals in the form of a Systemwide Mental Assessment Response Team (SMART).
- The program is co-supported by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) and is the largest of its kind in the country.



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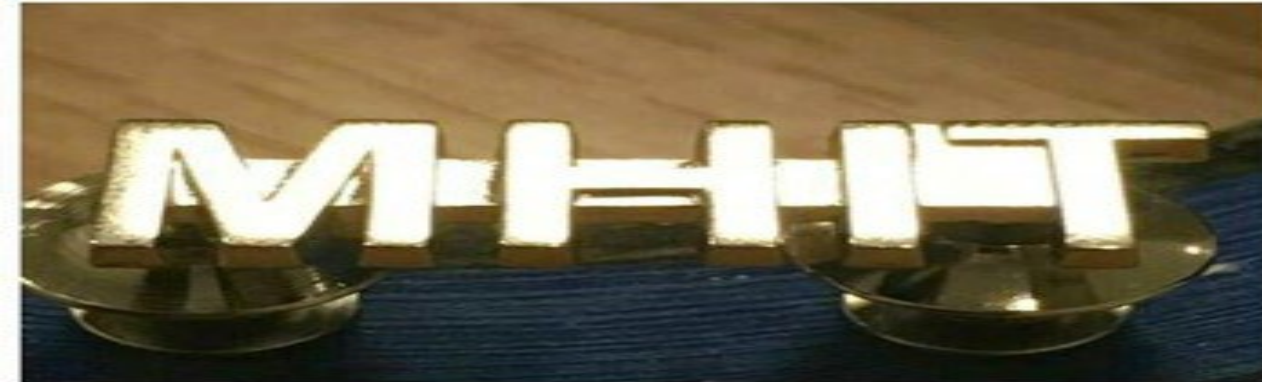
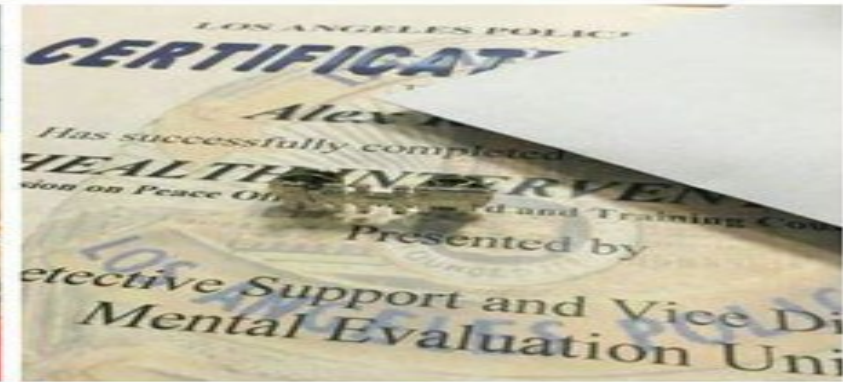


MEU TOUR

The Five Pillars of MEU

- Training
- Triage
- Crisis Response
- Follow-up
- Community Engagement

TRAINING



What We Teach

- Departmentwide Strategy
- Stigma Reduction
- Risk Assessment
- De-Escalation
- Case Management
- Legal
- Resources
- Self-Care

DAY ONE (TUESDAY)

<u>Time</u>			<u>Topics / Content</u>	<u>Instructors</u>
0700	.5	I	Introduction	MEU Staff OIC, Crisis Response Support Section
0730	1	II	Mental Health Crisis Response Program Overview and Class Introductions	MEU Staff
0830	1	III	Mental Health Overview Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)	DMH Staff
0930	1	IV	Juvenile Mental Health	DMH Staff
1030	1.5	V	Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (IDD)	ASLA Staff Autism Society Los Angeles (ASLA)
1200			LUNCH	
1300	4	VI	Legal Aspects & Mental Health Laws Firearms	MEU Staff
1700			End of Day ONE	

DAY TWO (WEDNESDAY)

<u>Time</u>			<u>Topics / Content</u>	<u>Instructors</u>
0700	.5	VII	Review of Day One	MEU Staff
0730	2	VIII	Crisis Communication, Suicide by Cop, Tactical Disengagement	MEU Staff
0930	.5.	IX	Rotation Briefing	MEU Staff
<i>Course Rotations</i>				
1000	1	X	Whole Class Session #1 Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)	DMH Staff
1100	1	XI	Whole Class Session #2 Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)	DMH Staff
1200	LUNCH			
1300	1	XII	Small Group Rotation #1	DMH Staff
1400	1	XIII	Small Group Rotation #2	DMH Staff
1500	1	XIV	Small Group Rotation #3	DMH Staff
1600	1	XV	Rotation Debrief and Open Discussion	MEU Staff
1700	End of DAY TWO			

DAY THREE (THURSDAY)

<u>Time</u>			<u>Topics / Content</u>	<u>Instructors</u>
0700	.5	XVI	Review of Day Two	MEU Staff
0730	1	XVII	Suicide Assessment	DMH Staff
0830	1	XVIII	Psychopharmacology	DMH Staff
0930	1.5	XIX	Substance Abuse / Co-Occurring Disorders	DMH Staff
1100			LUNCH	
1200	.5	XX	BSS Resources	BSS Staff Behavioral Science Services (BSS)
1230	1	XXI	Empathy and Officer Wellness	MEU Staff
1330	3.5	XXII	Site Visit / Group Project Preparation	MEU Staff
1700			End of Day THREE	

DAY FOUR (FRIDAY)

<u>Time</u>		<u>Topics / Content</u>	<u>Instructors</u>
0600	.5	XXIII Review of Day Three	MEU Staff
0630	1	XXIV Student Presentations of Site Visits	MEU Staff
0730	.5	XXV MH-302 Report Completion	MEU Staff
0830	.30	XXVI Scenario-Based Skills Briefing	MEU Staff
0900	3	XXVII Scenario-Based Skills FINAL/ VR Scenarios	MEU/ DMH Staff
1200		LUNCH	
1300	2	XXVIII Community Resource Presentation National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)	NAMI Staff
1500	2	XXIX Course Evaluations	MEU OIC/Staff
1600		End of Day FOUR	

MHIT

Mental Health Intervention Training (MHIT) 40-hour Course / Four Days

- 25 deliveries annually (every other week)
- POST-certified
- Personnel Trained (2014 through Nov 1, 2024)
 - **5,830 - LAPD**
 - **593 - Outside agencies**
 - **6,423 - Total**

MHIT

Priorities:

- Probationary Officers
- Field Training Officers
- Clinicians assigned to
Co-Responder teams
- Homeless Outreach
- Patrol Officers

MHIT

Also provide blocks of instruction at:

- **Custody Services Division Academy**
- **FTO School**
- **Basic Dispatcher School (Suicide Incidents)**
- **EBO School**
- **SECSD**
- **Juvenile Procedure School**
- **Supervisor School**
- **Presentations (conferences, LE-MH Learning Site)**

POST GUIDE



https://post.ca.gov/Portals/0/post_docs/publications/Mental_Health.pdf

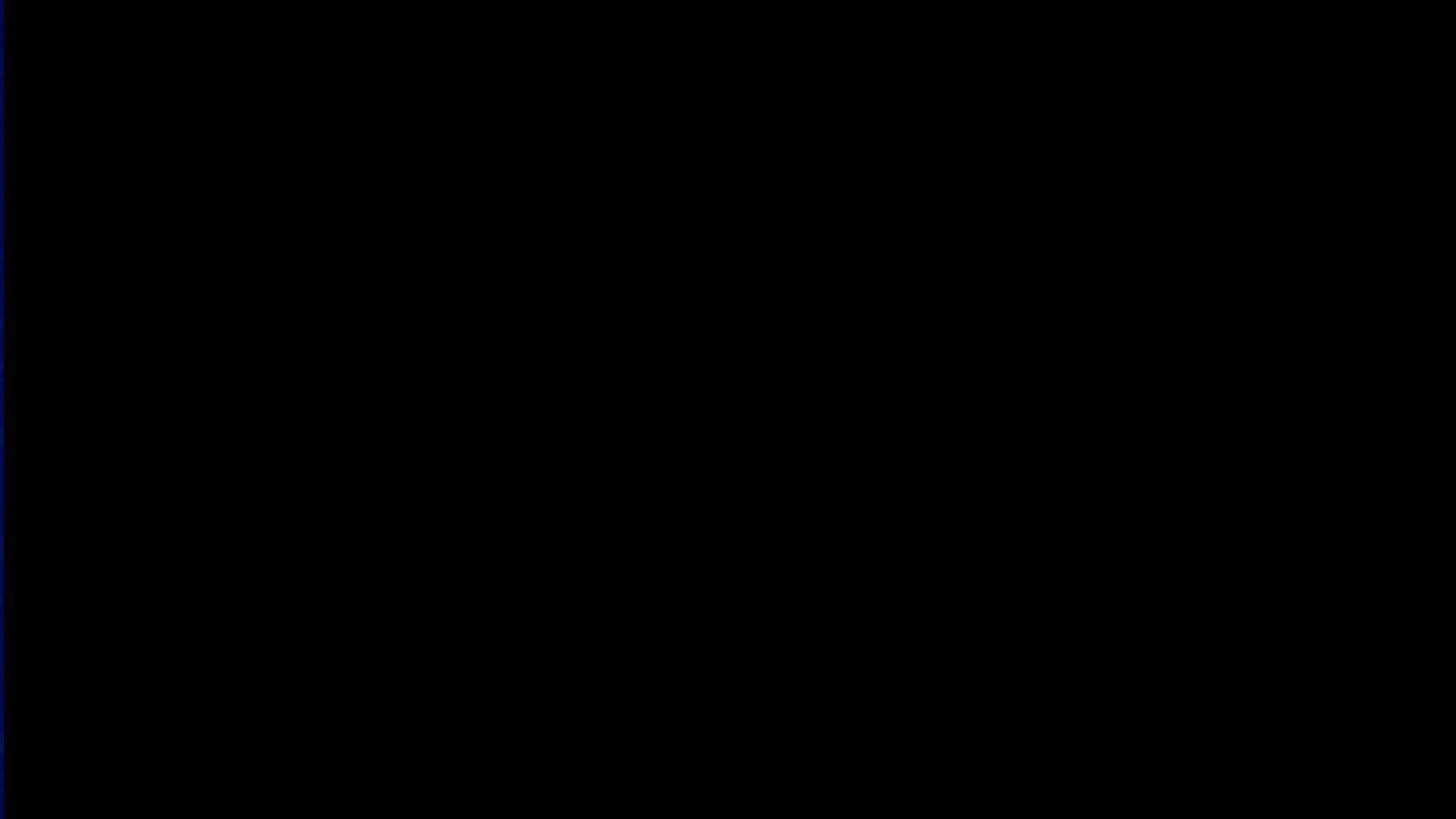
**A FIRST RESPONDER'S GUIDE
FOR PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS
OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY**



CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICER
STANDARDS AND TRAINING

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MHIT



VIRTUAL REALITY DEMO

Thank You!

QUESTIONS?