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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM GRADUATION

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Department, Wichita Police Department and Kansas Department of Corrections have teamed up to provide more effective public safety services to individuals who suffer from mental illnesses with the creation of the Crisis Intervention Team.

The team will celebrate their graduation from the program at noon on **Friday, August 29** at the Sedgwick County Extension Offices, Bison Room. Media personnel are encouraged to attend the graduation ceremony.

The goal of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is to supplement alternative incarceration programs by learning to identify and redirect persons with mental illnesses away from the jail system and toward available resources.

The 40-hour CIT training includes education about common disorders, substance misuse and abuse, suicide, and negotiating in a crisis situation.

Media personnel also are invited to attend one of the training sessions presented by Nancy Way, an individual whose mentally ill brother was shot and killed by police officers in 2006. She will be speaking out about the importance of CIT on the two-year anniversary of her family's loss. This session takes place from 1 to 2 p.m. on Thursday, August 28.

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