

ORIGIN OF THE LAPD'S MENTAL EVALUATION UNIT:

The first documented procedure on the management of persons suffering from a mental illness, were the Department's Daily Training Bulletins, dated November 10 & 12, 1948. The Department entity responsible for the management of persons suffering from a mental illness was the "Hospital Detail".

- In September of 1965, the Department established the "Hospital Section", which was responsible for preliminary investigation and processing of Emergency Mental Patients, which included interviewing of the mentally ill persons taken into custody, and preparation of the Application for Emergency Admission, and Request for Psychopathic Examination.
- In 1971 and 1976 several Department Training Bulletins make mention of transporting or contacting the "Hospital Detail", for the management of mentally disordered persons. The name changed from the "Hospital Detail" to the "Mental Evaluation Unit" (MEU) in 1976.
- In 1985 the Department established the Mental Evaluation Detail under Detective Headquarters Division.
- In 1986 the Mental Evaluation Detail was renamed and the Department established the Mental Evaluation Unit.
- On August 21, 1987, the Department, in response to several incidents involving persons suffering from a mental illness expanded the duties of the Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU). The role of the MEU is to develop, improve, and maintain adequate systems for recognition and early intervention of the mentally disordered and the developmentally disabled.
- On September 3, 1991, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors convened the Incarcerated Mentally Ill Task Force (IMITF). This IMITF was comprised of concerned governmental and private agencies and was 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. Each SMART team would be comprised of a specially trained mental health clinician and a law enforcement partner, with mobile capabilities.

- In January 1993, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) and the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) committed personnel and resources to staff SMART in the City of Los Angeles.
- In October 2002, as a result of the Lodestar recommendations the Department established the Mental Health Crisis Response Coordinator and the central authority with oversight of all Department specialized response approaches for persons who may be mentally ill. In addition, it was recommended that the Department expand the MEU/SMART operations to 24 hours a day seven days a week.
- In response to the Federal Consent Decree and at the direction of the Department, the Mental Evaluation Unit (MEU) developed a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), based on the Memphis Model established in 1988. The course was delivered as a pilot from 2002 through 2003. At the conclusion of the CIT pilot program the Department did not continue delivery of the course and it was dropped from the California Peace Officer Standards and Training (CA-POST) list of certified courses of instruction.
- In 2005, the MEU/ SMART operation was expanded to 20 hours (0600-0130) a day seven days a week. The SMART staffing was increased to 18 teams with a coverage of one team per Police Bureau per watch (Day and PMs).
- In September 2005, the Case Assessment Management Program (CAMP) was added to the Mental Illness Project. Comprised of LAPD investigators and LACDMH clinicians, its primary function was to identify those persons suffering from a mental illness, who are high utilizers of emergency services and/or who are at risk for violent encounters with police officers, (e.g. School Violence, Jumpers, and Suicide by Cop (SbC)).
- In 2007 the Mental Illness Project Coordinator established the Admin-Training Detail, which developed the twenty-four hour / three-day Introduction to Mental Health training course, which was delivered during 2008 to 2012. The previous CIT course and Introduction to Mental Health course was delivered to approximately **930** Department personnel.
- In July 2008, the CAMP was made a permanent investigative and follow-up entity of MEU. In 2008 the School Threat Assessment Response Team was established and in 2012 the Threat Assessment Response Partners (LA-TARP) in collaboration with Los Angeles Unified School District was established. Also in 2012 a full-time position was dedicated in CAMP for the management of firearms seized from Mentally Disordered individuals, which followed the California Department of Justice Armed Prohibited Persons System initiation and funding.

- In 2013 the Introduction to Mental Health course was not re-certified with California Peace Officer Standards and Training.
- In 2014 the Admin-Training Detail was expanded and the new four-day forty-hour Mental Health Intervention Training (MHIT) was developed CA-POST certified and first delivered in September of 2014 and became CA-POST certified in December 2014. The course is now scheduled to be a part of the mandatory Police Science Leadership course and is scheduled to be delivered twenty-five times each calendar year. Chief Beck has made the MHIT course a priority for all personnel assigned to patrol and homeless outreach duties. As of April, 2018, **1886** Department personnel have been trained in MHIT and **252** personnel from other agencies have also completed the course.
- In December 2015, Chief Charlie Beck with the support of Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the expansion and doubling of the Department's commitment to the long-established co-responder teams. An expansion plan was devised and put in place to ensure that the in-kind deployment with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health was accomplished. Utilizing overtime funding, the MEU was expanded to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, deploying two SMART teams per Police Bureau per watch for a total of seventeen teams a day.
- In September 2016, the permanent expansion of the MEU was completed, establishing the largest law enforcement mental health co-response unit in the world.
- In January 2017, the Admin-Training Detail began delivery of the 8-hour CA-POST certified Crisis Intervention – Mental Health Intervention Training (CI-MHIT) update course. This is delivered three times a deployment period to Field Training Officers, ensuring compliance with California Senate Bill 29. As of April 2018, **428** Field Training Officers have been trained in the CI-MHIT update.