

City of Foley



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT) TRAINING

Foley, Minn. – Jan. 10, 2017 – The CommUNITY Adult Mental Health Initiative (CAMHI) has awarded the Foley Police Department three scholarships for crisis intervention team (CIT) training for its officers. The scholarships totaling \$1,875.00 will allow three officers to take part in an interactive, 40-hour CIT certification course offered through the Minnesota Crisis Intervention Team (MN CIT) Officer's Association.

The course gives an in-depth look at mental illness and its implications for law enforcement. Officers will cover a variety of mental illness topics, including schizophrenia, mood, personality and cognitive disorders, substance abuse, suicide assessment, and adolescent and elder issues.

The goal of the course is to provide better community policing through advanced mental health awareness. Officers participating in the program will learn communication techniques and de-escalation skills when dealing with a person in a mental health crisis.

Foley Police Chief Katie McMillin says that on average the Police Department receives 1-2 calls per month that involves someone who has a mental disability, or who is having a mental health crisis. In 2016, the department responded to a total of 13 calls.

"Being better trained to assist people who are mentally disabled, or who are going through a mental health crisis is a huge asset for the community," McMillin says. "The more training we receive the better we can assist people in their time of need."

McMillin says she expects the officers will complete the CIT training by the end of 2017.

Foley, Minn. is the County Seat of Benton County, a rural community located 50 minutes north of Minneapolis and St. Paul and 15 minutes northeast of St. Cloud, Minn. Living in Foley offers a small town atmosphere along with many recreational opportunities, including two city parks, a skateboard park, golf course, a municipal swimming pool and walking trail. Foley has a population of more than 2,600.

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