

The Toronto Police Service - Mobile Crisis Intervention Team (MCIT)

The Toronto Police Service Mobile Crisis intervention Team (MCIT), is a collaborative partnership between participating hospitals and the Toronto Police Service (TPS). The program partners a mental health nurse and a specially trained police officer to respond to 911 emergency and police dispatch calls involving individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. The team will assess needs and connect the person in crisis to appropriate services.

MCIT stands for Mobile Crisis Intervention Team. Each team consists of a specially trained police officer and a mental health nurse. The program operates in twelve divisions across Toronto.

The MCIT mandate is to:

- Enhance the quality of service delivered to persons experiencing a mental health crisis;
- Provide a secondary response to incoming calls for service, follow-up, and referrals involving emotionally disturbed persons in their own environment;
- Remove the individual from serious harm to themselves or others;
- Make an immediate on site clinical assessment of the person in crisis; and
- Arrange appropriate mental health treatment through referral to an appropriate agency or Apprehension under the Mental Health Act.

The MCIT is a seven-day-a-week service that supports people experiencing a mental health crisis in the community. When MCIT attends a call, they will, assess the person in crisis; and, connect the person to an appropriate follow-up service.

MCIT will attend in response to a call from a Primary Response Unit (PRU), involving mental health crisis including; thoughts of suicide or self-harm, distorted or psychotic thinking, anxiety, overwhelming depression, and to those who may be suffering from a temporary breakdown of coping skills.

The team operates seven days a week, and depending on the team, will work as early as 11am and as late as 9pm. The hours are based on the times where the police receive the highest number of calls related to people experiencing mental health or emotional crisis. The Toronto Police are available 24/7 to attend 911 calls involving emotional crisis.

The MCIT consists of a nurse and a uniformed police officer. The job of the police officer is to make sure that a person experiencing a mental health crisis, and those around them, are safe. In some cases, this might require that an individual is hand-cuffed. The MCIT police officer must fulfill his or her police responsibilities and follow Toronto Police Procedures. Where there are sufficient grounds to arrest a person under the MHA, they will be taken to the nearest psychiatric facility, which is most often the nearest hospital emergency room.

Toronto Police Service is currently partnered with the following hospitals:

- 11/14 Divisions - partnered with St Joseph's Health Centre,
- 12/13/31 Divisions - partnered with Humber River Regional Hospital,
- 32/33 Divisions - partnered with North York General Hospital,
(*Launching end of March 2014*)
- 41/42/43 Divisions - partnered with The Scarborough Hospital,
- 51/52 Divisions - partnered with St. Michael's Hospital, and
- 54/55 Divisions - partnered with Toronto East General Hospital.