



CENTRAL COUNCIL  
*Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska*  
Office of the President • Edward K. Thomas Building  
9097 Glacier Highway • Juneau, Alaska 99801

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Executive Council of the Central Council  
TLINGIT & HAIDA INDIAN TRIBES OF ALASKA

Resolution EC 22-41

Title: Making Crisis Intervention Training Programs Mandatory for Alaska State Law  
Enforcement Officers

WHEREAS, the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 34,000 citizens; and

WHEREAS, under Article X of the Tlingit & Haida Constitution, the Executive Council is the governing body of Tlingit & Haida when the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Assembly is not in session; and

WHEREAS, Tlingit & Haida has identified as a tribal priority the development and delivery of culturally appropriate services that address behavioral services needs including services to address mental health and substance use disorders, suicide and substance abuse prevention, and the promotion mental health; and

WHEREAS, Alaska primarily relies upon law enforcement, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and hospital emergency rooms to serve people in behavioral or mental health crises; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement and EMS responses sometimes result in a negative outcome for the person experiencing the crisis, including unnecessary violence or additional trauma; and

WHEREAS, such responses divert public safety resources away from crime prevention and other law enforcement activities; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement and EMS engagement in behavioral health emergencies also further stigmatizes and criminalizes mental illness and addiction; and

WHEREAS, Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) is a program that provides the foundation necessary to promote community and statewide solutions to assist individuals with a mental illness and/or addictions; and

WHEREAS, the CIT model reduces both stigma and the need for further involvement with the criminal justice system and provides a forum for effective problem solving regarding the interaction between the criminal justice and mental health care system and creates the context for sustainable change; and

WHEREAS, CIT provides law enforcement-based crisis intervention training programs for helping individuals with mental illness, working in partnership with professionals in mental health care to provide a system of services that is friendly to the individuals with mental illness, family members, and police officers; and

WHEREAS, CIT is designed to educate and prepare police officers and dispatchers who encounter people with severe mental illnesses to recognize the signs and symptoms of these illnesses, and to respond effectively and appropriately to people who are experiencing a psychiatric crisis; and

WHEREAS, because police officers are often the first responders in these incidents, it is essential that they know how critical periods of mental illness alter behaviors and perceptions, and that police officers can assess what is needed in the moment to bring understanding and compassion to people, including tribal citizens, when handling these difficult situations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska urges the State of Alaska, including the Department of Law and Department of Corrections, to make Crisis Intervention Training programs mandatory for law enforcement officers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Alaska, including the Department of Law and Department of Corrections, commit to responding to the increasing numbers of mental health crises with police officers that are CIT certified or specially trained first responders; and

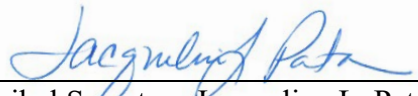
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tlingit & Haida calls upon Sealaska Heritage Institute, the Alaska Federation of Natives, Alaska Tribal Unity, and the National Congress of American Indians to consider and approve this resolution, as well as the Speaker of the House of the House of Representatives of the Alaska Legislature and President of the Alaska State Senate.

ADOPTED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August 2022, by the Executive Council of the Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, by a vote of 5 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions and 1 absence.

**CERTIFY**

  
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President Richard J. Peterson

**ATTEST**

  
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Tribal Secretary Jacqueline L. Pata