

# CIT NEWSLETTER

**“DURING THE WILD UNCERTAINTY OF A FRIGHTENED LAND, SPRING REACHED OUT HER MYSTICAL HAND; WILLING TO GIVE US HOPE.” - ANGIE WEILAND CROSBY**



## BHT Electronic referral platform release

The BHT received training from NY MATTERS on March 10, 2021. The NYS Department of Health provided the team with 9 IPADs in order for officers to have an electronic referral platform while interacting with individuals out in the community. The team will use this technology to create linkages between individuals suffering from opioid addiction and substance use treatment programs. The team was also provided with NARCAN that they can distribute to community members who are in need.



## Opinion: 988 line for suicide calls can help shift from policing to mental health service

“I kinda wanna try to stay alive since you were nice enough to hear me out. It kinda gives me another reason to think people are still good,” a teenage caller said to one of EveryMind’s specialists on the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline after nearly two hours of emergency counseling.

The caller is a suicide attempt survivor. She had a plan to kill herself at the beginning of the call.

But for the existence of Lifeline, she could have easily taken the pills she had scavenged that night, or her family could have discovered her plan. It is not hard to imagine that somebody would have eventually called 911.

We do not know how many people at risk like this caller land at the police department’s doorstep or end up taking their own lives every day because they do not know of Lifeline.

While society continues to debate police reform, everyone seems to agree on one thing: Law enforcement personnel are not well suited for handling mental or behavioral health crises. Diverting this type of emergency to professionals trained in crisis intervention can lead to more peaceful and therapeutic outcomes.

One of the best pieces of news that got buried in the tumult of 2020 is that Congress passed the historic National Suicide Hotline Designation Act.

By July 2022, the extension 988 will come online as an alternative to 911 for individuals who are in mental distress or suicidal. Highly trained and accredited counselors in Lifeline centers nationwide like EveryMind will answer calls through this new 988 extension.

“The Lifeline is based on the concept that we’re trying to de-escalate callers, we’re trying to keep them out of hospital rooms, we’re trying to keep law enforcement from having to go out, from 911 from having to be called. ... It saves money,” said Shari Sinwelski from Vibrant Emotional Health, the administrative arm of Lifeline.

Currently, only 5 percent of the Lifeline calls we receive are passed on to 911. Given that an average of 10 percent of law enforcement agencies’ total budgets was spent responding to and transporting people with mental illness in 2017, from a financial standpoint, using 988 is a bargain compared to dispatching emergency personnel in response to every suicidal caller.

*Click the image above to read the full article.*

## Mental Health Resources

It is important we continue to train and enhance our skills so we can be most effective when dealing with those in crisis. Below is a link for a list of mental health resources for Western New York.



*Click on the image above to see available mental health resources for Erie County.*

## IN THIS ISSUE

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**AWARDS**

**CIT OFFICER OF THE MONTH**

*Officers that go above and beyond*



*Officer Aaron McDowell*

Aaron McDowell is recognized as April's CIT officer of the month. On March 22, 2021 at approx. 11:30 hrs, officers from Delta District did respond to a call of a female that overdosed. The officers from Delta District upon arrival did actually learned that the male caller was having a mental crisis. The individual did come out of the house with a black long gun which was later determined to be a toy. The subject wanted police officers to shoot and kill him. Officer Aaron McDowell of the behavioral health team did respond to the scene. He did engage the individual and immediately Developed a rapport with the subject. The subject became enraged and confrontational at times, but Officer McDowell remained calm and listened to the subject. There was a time he even offered the hostile man a bottle of water. Officer McDowell did successfully de-escalate the situation. PO Aaron McDowell did get the individual to get in a patrol car to go to ECMC for an evaluation without incident. Thank you, Officer McDowell for your patience, compassion, and professionalism.

*If you would like to nominate an officer for the CIT challenge coin send an email to Captain Amber Beyer with the following information included: Nominees name, district, and reason for nomination.*



**CIT CHALLENGE COIN: GIVEN TO OFFICERS WHO GO ABOVE AND BEYOND IN THEIR EFFORTS TO REDUCE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS**

**CIT Challenge Coin**

These coins are presented as recognition to someone who has showed competency or outstanding work in one or more of the three core elements (Inclusive Collaboration, Coordinated Responses, and Training) that have been identified. These coins are 1.75" (1 3/4) and display the designing change logo of a brain inside of an innovation light bulb. The brain is comprised of blue and green representing the colors of law enforcement and mental health. The back features a law enforcement badge with a caduceus representing the collaborative efforts needed to construct change.

**OFFICER MENTAL HEALTH**

*New York Law Enforcement Assistance Program*

NYLEAP is a 24 hour help service for all law enforcement officers and first responders across New York State.

Our services are offered at no charge to individuals who serve as first responders (i.e. law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, correction officers, and dispatchers). NYLEAP was created by peers for peers and after serving over 40 years combined as first responders, it became apparent that there is a huge void when it comes to our law enforcement officers and all first responder's mental health. The statistics are growing at alarming rates when it comes to deaths by suicide, PTSD, substance use disorders, and other mental health conditions caused by the day to day stress and trauma that comes along with doing the job. In 2018, the number of reported deaths by suicide in law enforcement alone outnumbered the line of duty deaths and that number does not include suicide attempts.

**[CLICK HERE TO BE DIRECTED TO THE NYLEAP HOME PAGE FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS](#)**

**Contact CIT**

**Captain Amber M Beyer**  
Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator  
Buffalo Police Department  
68 Court St  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
Office - 716-851-4622  
Cell - 716-954-1099  
Email - [abeyer@bpdny.org](mailto:abeyer@bpdny.org)

The Behavioral Health Team operates Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. till 6 p.m. For non-emergent question and concerns you can contact the Behavioral Health Team.

**Behavioral Health Team**  
716-851-9604- Co-responder teams  
716-851-9605- BHT Lieutenants

Please call 911 for immediate assistance with someone in crisis.

**Mental Health Resources**



*Click on the image above to see available mental health resources from Compeer Buffalo, including Mental Health First Aid Training.*

**TRAINING**

**Upcoming Mental Health Trainings**

*(Click on the pictures below to find out information for the upcoming trainings/conferences)*



CIT International Conference - Turning up the heat with CIT: Transforming crisis response systems. CIT International is pleased to host the 2021 CIT International Conference in Phoenix, AZ August 16 - 18, 2021. In person and virtual options available. Pricing and details available on the web page.

Virtual **NAMICon 2021** July 27 – 28

**Bringing People Together for Mental Health – The Time Is Now**

A bright spot in a year defined by distance, isolation and adversity was the success of NAMICon 2020, our first virtual national convention. As we look ahead to 2021 with the promise of reconnecting and renewed possibilities, we are excited to once again present NAMICon 2021 virtually July 27-28! Look for more event details and registration information to come soon. If you are interested in viewing on-demand sessions and workshops from our 2020 event, visit 2020 Virtual NAMICon.

**Clubhouse at Endeavor Health Services**

**Services Include**

- ◊ Crisis Diversion
- ◊ Group Therapy
- ◊ One on one sessions
- ◊ On-Call Prescriber
- ◊ Linkages to Community Resources
- ◊ Peer Socialization
- ◊ Health Coaching
- ◊ Hands on Activities
- ◊ Family Bonding Activities

**Hours of Operation:**

Monday-Friday 4pm-9pm  
Saturday 9am-12pm

**Contact Us:**

716-895-6700 ext. 4907  
clubhouse@ehsny.org  
Central Intake: 716-895-6701



Please call or e-mail the clubhouse to sign up for groups!

Provider Referral Process: Please e-mail the clubhouse to obtain the referral form for completion.

\*Due to the COVID-19 crisis, all groups and scheduled services will be held via Zoom but walk in services will continue to remain in person.\*

Groups assist with building upon or developing new skills to address your short and long term life goals. For example, Coping with COVID, Social Skills, Mindfulness, Holistic Health, Lidiando con COVID, Vocational 101, Effective Parenting, and Winter Warmth.

1526 Walden Ave Suite 400 Cheektowaga, NY 14225

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**Endeavor Mental Health Drop In Services**

Endeavor’s Clubhouse is a drop in service for anyone who needs assistance after hours, Monday through Friday from 4pm-9pm and Saturdays from 9am-12pm. The Clubhouse offers individual and group services and activities in order to assist individuals with their mental illness and/or addiction recovery journeys.

This is a new program at Endeavor and it provides walk-in crisis diversion services and linkages to resources to prevent a higher level of care for individuals. All of Clubhouse’s sessions will be held via Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but walk-in services are still available at Endeavor.

If you or someone you know are struggling with mental illness and/or addiction, call us today at (716) 895-6701 to schedule an appointment.

**What is a BolaWrap?**



Click the picture above to watch an informative video about the BolaWrap

Thought of as “Remote Handcuffs”, the BolaWrap® is a hand-held remote restraint device that discharges an 8-foot bola style Kevlar® tether at 513 feet per second to wrap a subject’s legs or arms at an effective range of 10-25 feet.

Each tether has a 4-pronged hook on either end. The tether and its hooks are contained in a cartridge. Each cartridge contains and is powered by a partial charge .380 blank.

To deploy the tether: the officer loads a cartridge into the device, a safety is turned to the off position which then automatically illuminates a green line laser for accuracy. The officer then manually moves the slide handle to the rear, and the activation button is pressed to deploy the tether.

Each cartridge can only be used once, and a new cartridge can be reloaded into the device in approximately 3 seconds

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Bola Wrap.

## MODERN POLICING AND MENTAL HEALTH

## Buffalo Police Department Deploy BolaWrap to Detain Woman During Mental Health Call



[Click the image to read the full article](#)

Wrap Technologies, Inc. (the “Company” or “WRAP”) (Nasdaq: WRAP), an innovator of modern policing solutions, reported the successful deployment of the BolaWrap by the Buffalo Police Department while responding to a mental health call of a woman in crisis on Friday.

In September of 2020, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown and the Buffalo Police Department held a press conference to discuss and demonstrate BolaWrap for the public.

In October of 2020, Mayor Brown and Common Council President Darius Pridgen announced the launch of a BolaWrap pilot program as part of an innovative public safety initiative.

According to WGRZ,

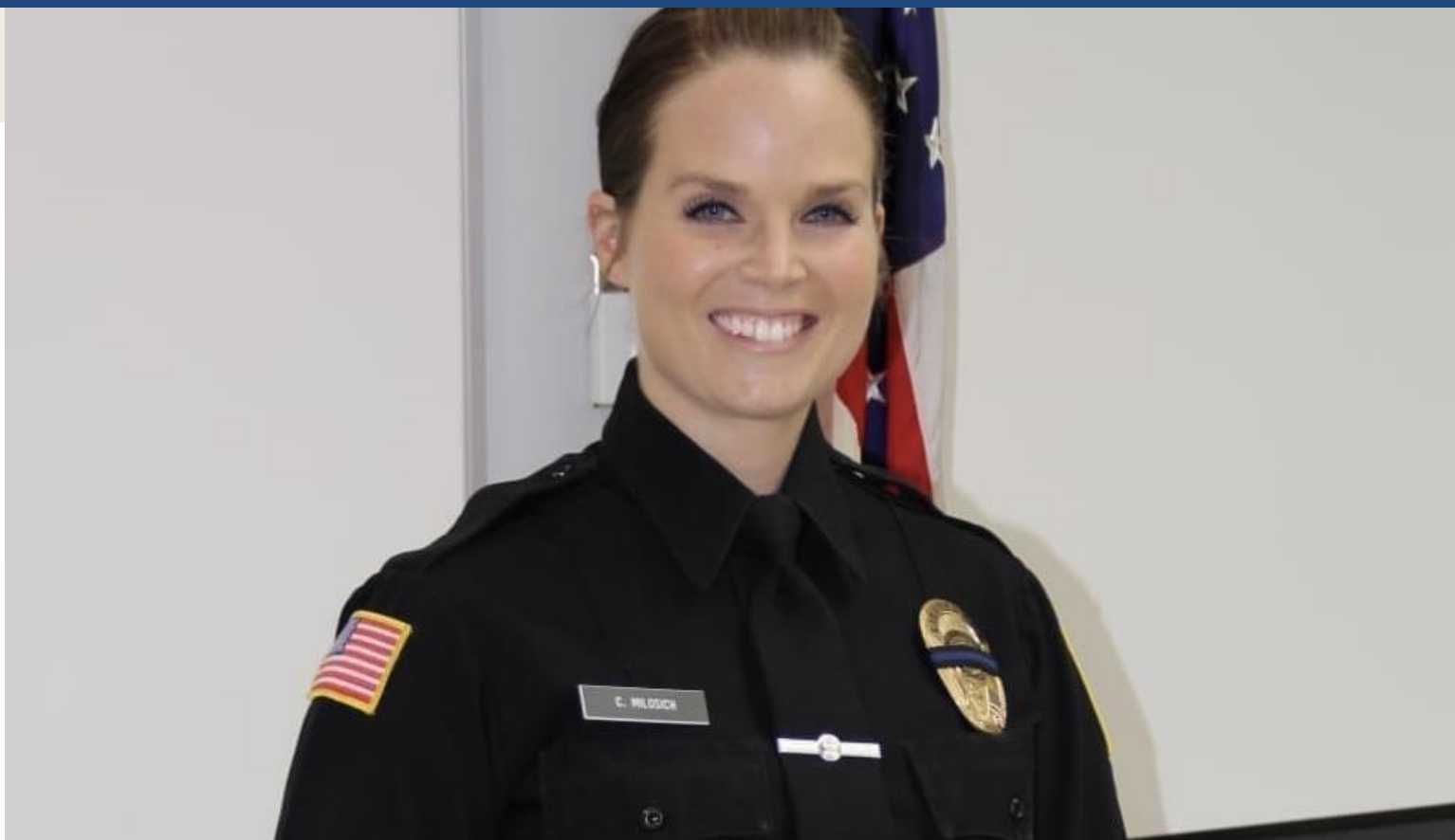
*‘At around 2 p.m. Friday near Kenfield-Langfield, police received a call with concern about a woman who may have the potential to cause harm to herself or others and was underdressed in the snow. Police were concerned about hypothermia exposure for the woman.*

*Police say they spoke with the woman for an extended period of time, asking her to get in a police car and receive medical evaluation. The woman refused, which police say prompted them to deploy the BolaWrap.*

*The device allowed police to transport her to Erie County Medical Center for evaluation without anyone getting hurt, according to police.”*

Public safety includes solutions that can de-escalate encounters, and that’s exactly what the BolaWrap does,” said Tom Smith, President of WRAP. “BolaWrap doesn’t rely on pain compliance and is designed to de-escalate situations and provide needed support for persons in crisis. We are pleased to continue seeing successful field deployments of the BolaWrap, especially by the police department of New York’s second-largest city.

### SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO FALLEN TONOWANDA POLICE DEPARTMENT LIEUTENANT



#### LT. CHRISTINE MILOSICH

Lieutenant Christine Milosich passed away March 1, 2021, after a brave fight with cancer. She was 39 years old. Milosich was hired by the town in 2008 and became the first female to be promoted to lieutenant in the Town of Tonawanda Police.