



For Immediate Release

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**CHARLOTTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE AND
CHARLOTTE COUNTY CIT TRAINING GROUP RECEIVES RECOGNITION**

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. (January 30, 2017) - Charlotte Behavioral Health Care (CBHC), in conjunction with 211, Riverside Behavioral, the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition, Julian Reich, Leigh-Anne Nowak, Russell Kirshy, and Jamie Cojocarie, make up Charlotte County's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training Group.

Recently, the Florida CIT Coalition and the Florida Mental Health Institute awarded the Charlotte County CIT Training Group a certificate of recognition for its outstanding efforts to establish a 1st Responder System to address individuals who may be in behavioral health crisis. In addition, CBHC was awarded a GOLD rating to acknowledge their level of accomplishment.

The team works together to provide training to area law enforcement offices in mental health and substance disorders as well as resources and environmental concerns. This information gives law enforcement an understanding of potential concerns and how they affect individuals. CIT training gives them tools to keep themselves and the community safer as well as redirecting individuals with mental illness from the judicial system and into the health care system.

CIT is 40 hour training presented and is supported by all area law enforcement agencies as valuable to their officers. Participants in this training rate its quality, and those ratings are submitted to the State CIT commission. The Charlotte County CIT team presented two sessions in 2016 and is committed to continue providing quality training for the law enforcement officers in our community.

About Charlotte Behavioral Health Care

Operating for 47 years, Charlotte Behavioral Health Care seeks to optimize health, improve quality of life and build an overall feeling of wellness for all children, adolescents, adults and families in Charlotte County. More than 2,000 children and a total of 15,000 residents are treated annually at CBHC for mental illnesses, behavioral disorders or substance abuse addictions.

CBHC helps individuals find hope for a brighter tomorrow through effective mental health and substance abuse treatment provided to children and families in Charlotte County. For more information, visit www.cbhcf.org.

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