

Ravalli County Sheriff's Office
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Chris Hoffman, Sheriff

Stephen Holton, Undersheriff

**** PRESS RELEASE 05-10-2016****

Ravalli County Undersheriff Steve Holton announced that the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office is hosting a Crisis Intervention Team Montana Academy, with Riverfront Mental Health Center and West House in Corvallis, May 16th through May 20th.

The purpose of CIT Montana is to train first responders, law enforcement officers, detention staff, and dispatchers in engaging, assessing, and assisting individuals in crisis with mental and/or co-occurring substance disorders. CIT is a 40-hour evidence based training that encompasses tools and skills needed for first responders to better manage individuals presenting with those disorders. This training exposes the participants to materials and experiences from trained mental health and medical professionals to better prepare them to effectively and safely work with this unique population. CIT Academy instruction includes suicide assessment and intervention, developmental disabilities, mental illness, legal issues, and intervention strategies among other topics.

This academy is being presented using Ravalli County instructors and presenters with assistance from the Montana Crisis Intervention Team. After successful completion of this course, law enforcement officers will be certified by Montana DPHHS Addictive & Mental Disorders Division and Montana P.O.S.T. as a CIT Officer.

Undersheriff Holton emphasized the importance of hosting this Academy locally by saying, "the real strength of this Academy is the continued partnership between law enforcement and local agencies, particularly Riverfront Mental Health and West House, to better serve this population and resolve crisis calls in the safest manner possible for everyone involved".