



VIRGINIA CIT COALITION

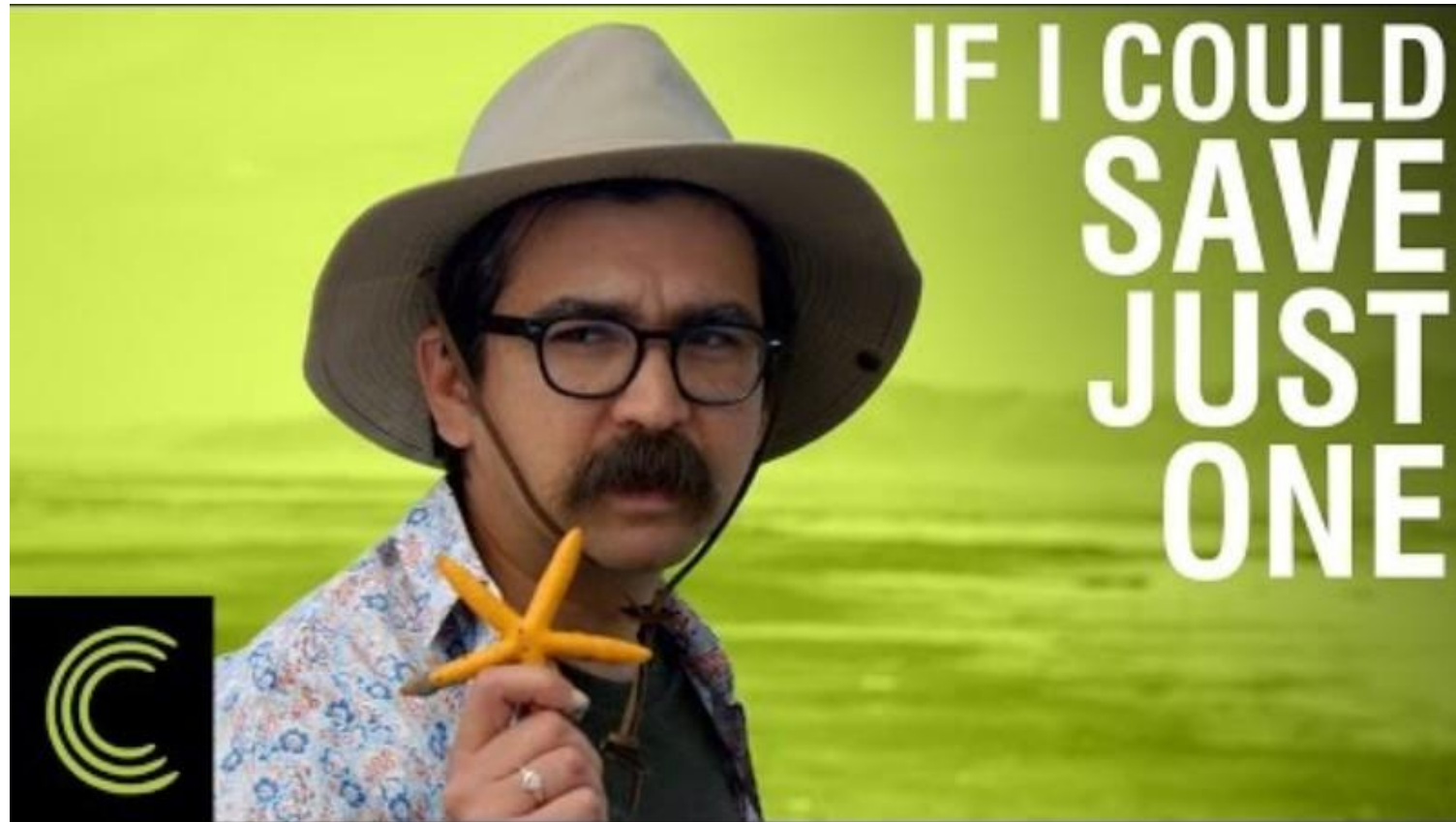
A Presentation to the VACSB Emergency Services Conference

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COALITION

Making a Difference





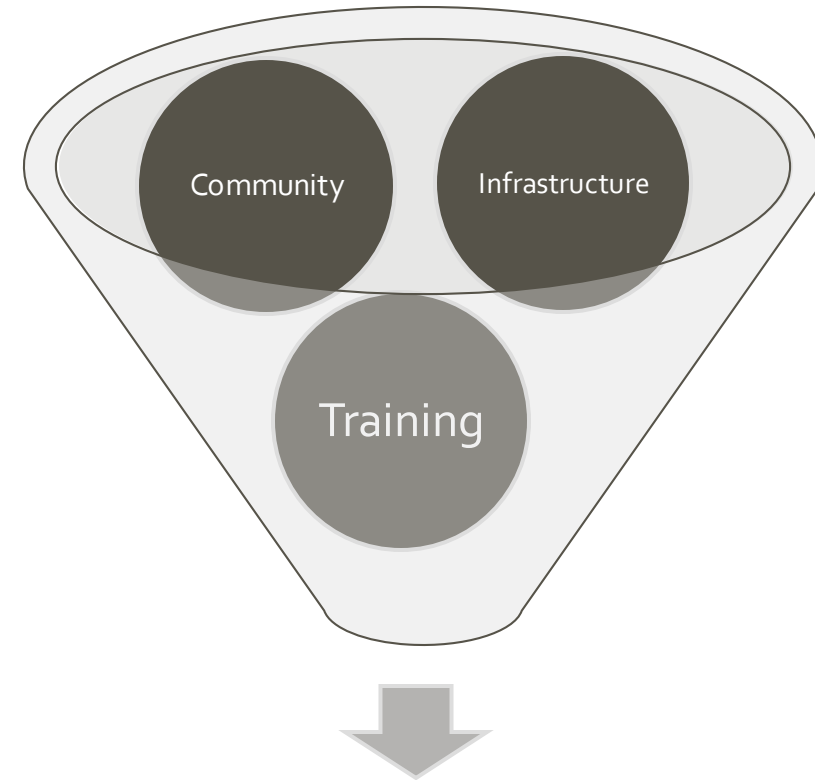
Virginia CIT

- Since 2009, Virginia CIT have partnered with the Commonwealth to deliver state services around the training and support of law enforcement and other first responders in their response to behavioral health emergencies.
- Since that time, more than 18,500 public safety and public mental health professionals have received the core, 40-hour crisis intervention team training.



CIT—It's more than just a training

- Community Partnerships
- Infrastructure
- Training



Crisis Intervention Team



Essential Elements of Virginia CIT

• Required Elements

- Community Stakeholder Oversight
- CIT Coordinator
- Core 40-hr CIT Training for LEOs
- Train the Trainer Classes
- Dispatcher Training
- Policies & Procedures
- Therapeutic Assessment Site
- Data Collection
- Participation in VACIT

<https://virginiacit.org/about/essential-elements/>

• Recommended Elements

- Training of Jail Staff & Corrections
- Training of other First Responders (Fire & EMS) & Behavioral Health Providers
- CIT Refresher Training
- Advanced CIT Trainings
- Co-Response Teams
- Self-Review of Program
- Awards & Recognition

Virginia CIT Coalition

- **MISSION**

- VACIT supports crisis intervention teams to improve behavioral health crisis response, through community collaboration, training and advocacy.

- **VISION**

- We aspire to promote safe and appropriate responses in Virginia to those affected by behavioral health crisis.

- **VALUES**

- Safety
- Partnership
- Dignity and Respect
- Innovation



Virginia CIT Coalition

- Goal 1. Advocate for an Improved behavioral health crisis system in Virginia**
As measured by the number of legislative meetings held annually.
- Goal 2. Expand the capacity of VACIT programs to deliver high quality training**
As measured by the standardized curriculum finished and rolled out.
- Goal 3. Ensure program fidelity at all levels of the organization**
As measured by the number of programs using the standardized curriculum.
- Goal 4. Develop and maintain an effective VACIT Infrastructure**
As measured by the hiring of an Executive Director.
- Goal 5. Ensure successful statewide partnerships**
As measured by the number of times VACIT is included with partners in planning, strategy sessions or workgroups.



Virginia CIT Structure



- 17-member Board of Directors, including a non-voting member from DBHDS & DCJS
- BoD meets every month
- BoD supported by Regional CIT Coalitions
- Each regional coalition appoints 3 Board Members who can serve up to two successive 3-year terms





What We Do

- Establish recommended standards for CIT programs – Essential Elements
- Education and outreach
- Legislative advocacy
- Host quarterly CIT Coordinator meetings & information sharing
- Training and technical assistance to CIT programs
- Virginia CIT Conference
- Support research and evaluation
- Curriculum Standardization

Current Status of CIT in Virginia

- Virginia is regarded as one of the strongest statewide CIT initiatives in the nation due to the universal adoption of the best practice across Virginia localities, the collaboration among state agencies and local programs, and the level of state support for CIT assessment sites
- Of the 40 CSBs in the Commonwealth, 38 support their own CIT Program & 2 partner with neighboring communities for a total of 40 CIT Programs
- Virginia's General Assembly allocates ~\$13M annually to support 38 CIT Assessment Sites; other program funds are local
- All Virginia law enforcement agencies, including the Virginia State Police, have access to CIT training



Virginia CIT Recent Developments

- **Professionalization of Organization**
 - Incorporation & 501(c)3 non-profit designation from IRS (pending)
 - Part-time employee
- **DCJS-Supported Training Initiative**
 - VACIT Instructors
 - VACIT-supported Train the Trainer Trainings (TTT)
 - VACIT-supported 40-hour Assisted Trainings
 - Overtime Stipends for LEO Attendance at 40-hour CIT Trainings
- **Curriculum Review & Standardization of CIT Trainings (40-hour, TTT, Refresher, Dispatcher)**

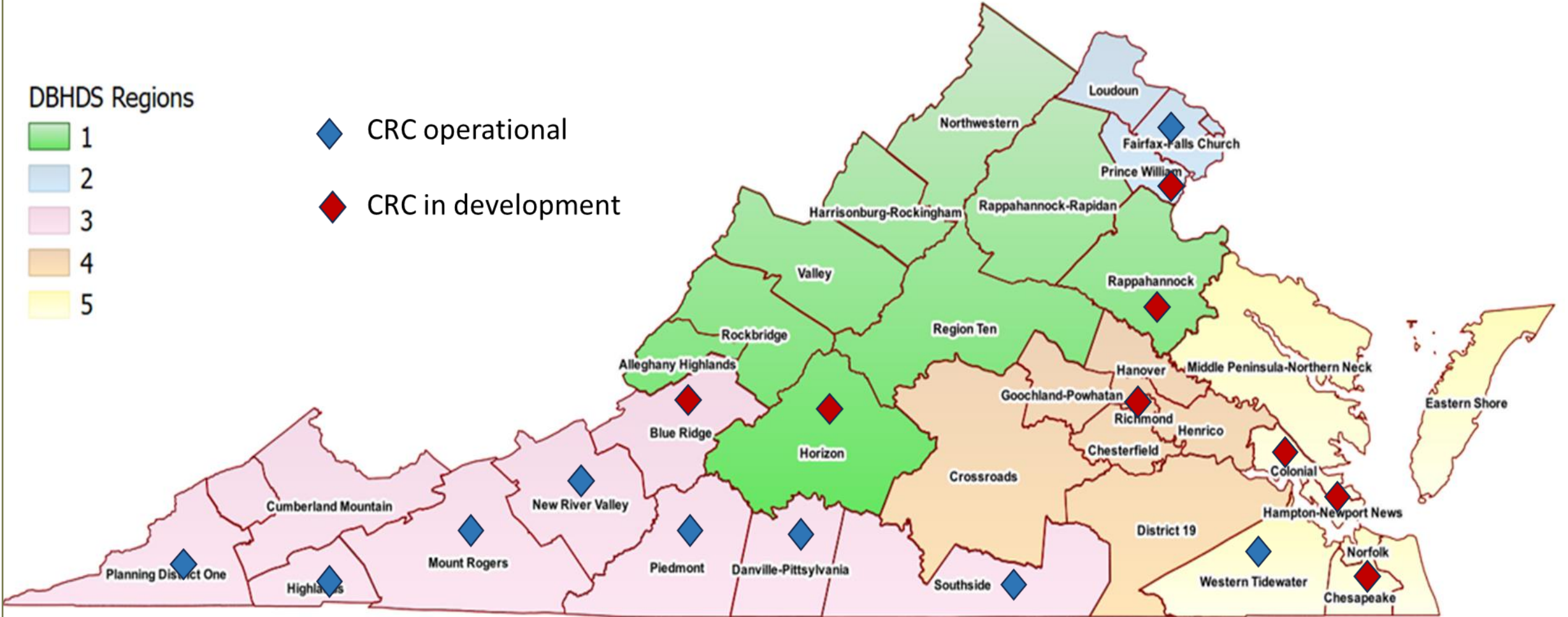




DBHDS Regions

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

- ◆ CRC operational
- ◆ CRC in development



Virginia CIT Now and the Future

- The success of the Commonwealth's current crisis system expansion, to include Marcus Alert and CRSUs, requires first responders trained in the Virginia CIT model to appropriately identify individuals in behavioral health crisis and to facilitate access to care in the least restrictive environment.
- The Governor's Right Help, Right Now initiative has approved \$55 million obligated for RHRN Crisis Facility Projects in FY24
- Through the efforts of the Right Help, Right Now Initiative, Governor Youngkin's proposed budget includes \$2.585 in annual funding to support Virginia CIT's efforts to hire professional staff, expand its operations, and to provide financial support for local CIT training across the Commonwealth of Virginia



Virginia CIT Future Directions



- Virginia CIT Program Peer Review Process
- Enhanced Website and Improved Social Media Presence
- Stronger Legislative Advocacy Initiatives
- Development of Stable Funding Streams
 - \$1.1m for local programs (\$27.5k/program)
 - \$160k for state conference



QUESTIONS?

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