



CIT International Conference

August 10-12, 2026
Orlando, Florida

CIT: Where Crisis Meets Compassion

About Our Keynote Speakers

Sheriff Will Akin

Sheriff, Clay County | Keynote Speaker | Faculty, National Sheriffs' Institute

Life Redirected: A Journey from Homelessness to Service.



Sheriff Will Akin of Clay County is a law enforcement executive, educator, and crisis communications specialist with more than two decades of experience across frontline policing, emergency management, and academic instruction. As Clay County's former Emergency Management Director, he led crisis communications during large-scale disasters. As the office's Spokesperson from 2013 to 2020, he developed expertise in public trust and transparency under pressure.

Sheriff Akin has taught leadership, ethics, management, and crisis communications through the Missouri Police Chiefs Association Command Course and as an Adjunct Instructor at MidAmerica Nazarene University. He currently serves as an Adjunct Instructor in Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety Executive Management Program, as a forthcoming Lecturer at the University of Kansas, and as Faculty at the National Sheriffs' Institute. He is also a long-standing speaker and instructor for the Missouri Sheriffs' Association and has delivered keynotes at the Missouri Police Chiefs Annual Conference and the Heartland Tactical Officers' Association.

Sheriff Akin first completed CIT training with the Phoenix Police Department in 2005 and again in 2018 as Law Enforcement Co-Chair of his local CIT Council. That sustained commitment to crisis intervention principles underpins his approach to leadership – and makes him a uniquely credible voice on the intersection of law enforcement and mental health.

Dr. Teri Peck

Senior Medical Science Liaison, Neurocrine Biosciences

More Than a Side Effect: The Tardive Dyskinesia Conversation



Dr. Teri Peck is a Senior Medical Science Liaison at Neurocrine Biosciences and lives in Pensacola, FL. She earned her undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice and began her career as a Probation Officer before pursuing graduate studies in Social Work at Temple University. While pursuing her master's degree she worked in both a Community Mental Health Clinic and as a Crisis Interventionist in an emergency room in Pennsylvania. She later went on to earn her PhD in Psychology and her research focused on mental health legislative policymaking.

Dr. Peck's clinical career includes extensive experience across the continuum of behavioral health care, including outpatient services, partial hospitalization programs, and secured psychiatric units. Throughout her clinical career, she has provided counseling and support to individuals living with serious mental illness.

As the owner and director of a licensed behavioral health clinic, Dr. Peck partnered with criminal justice diversion programs to deliver court-mandated treatment services and instructed state-approved educational curricula for repeat offenders. Her passion centers on matching appropriate treatment to people with mental illness, including within the criminal justice system.

Brandon Styles

Keynote Speaker | Recovery Advocate | Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist, Metro Drug Coalition

From Surviving to Serving: A Journey of Pain, Purpose, and Impact



Brandon Styles is a recovery advocate, speaker, and community leader whose work is rooted in lived experience, hope, and service. As a person in long-term recovery, he delivers honest, hope-centered messaging that bridges personal insight with practical knowledge for professionals, community members, and those directly impacted by addiction and crisis.

Brandon serves as Regional Overdose Prevention Specialist with Metro Drug Coalition, strengthening community response and expanding education around substance use, overdose prevention, and recovery. He is pursuing his LADAC credential, directs Sage Recovery — a men’s recovery housing program — and serves as 2nd Vice President of NAMI Knoxville. He has delivered keynotes at the Knoxville Day Reporting Center, Community Corrections Day Reporting Center, East Tennessee Wellness Roundtable, and the Tennessee Leadership Academy, among others, and has been named a Hope Ambassador at the 2026 Rx Summit in Nashville.

His work has earned the Community Impact Award from Turn Up Knox, the Serve Award from Young Professionals of Knoxville, and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Tennessee Department of Corrections. For CIT audiences in particular, Brandon’s message is a powerful reminder that people in crisis are more than their hardest moment — and that compassionate intervention can change everything.