



Interactions with Persons with Mental Illness: INSTRUCTOR COURSE



Course Director: Dr. Troy Rodgers

Dr. Rodgers is a police psychologist based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He has a master's degree and a doctorate in clinical forensic psychology. He has worked with law enforcement officers for over 20 years. At the present time, Dr. Rodgers works as a consultant to over 500 local, state, and federal law enforcement, firefighter, ambulance, dispatch and corrections agencies.

Dr. Rodgers is a highly sought after trainer in the field of psychology and criminal justice. He is routinely utilized as an expert by multiple regional media outlets. Dr. Rodgers is also certified as a Professional Lecturer and Master Instructor by the New Mexico Department of Public Safety Training Academy.

2026 Class Dates

February 23-27th 2026 (Hobbs, NM)

April 20-24th 2026

August 10-14th 2026

Class Times

8am-5pm each day

Class Cost

\$950+tax per person
Group discounts available

8341 Washington St. NE. Albuquerque, NM 87113
(One Block South of Alameda and one block west of Jefferson)

Class Overview

The Interactions with Persons with Mental Illness INSTRUCTOR COURSE is designed to be an interactive five day, 40-hour class, which focuses on preparing attendees to teach future Interactions with Persons with Mental Illness biennium training blocks. Attendees will be given the skills and materials to return to their agencies and provide 4-8 hours of instruction in HB93 related topics, which ultimately meet state requirements.

In short, the 40-Hour Train the Trainer class has been designed to provide Train the Trainer certification to officers and other non-sworn personnel around the state of New Mexico. With this certification individuals can provide the in-service training mandated by HB93 in 2011.

The topics included in the class are designed to give attendees a basic foundation in law enforcement instruction as well as the specialized knowledge necessary for verbal de-escalation of people in crisis. During the course of the week-long class participants will gain knowledge regarding crises and how people respond or behave in crisis. The concept of mental illness and its effect on the verbal interaction will be addressed as well.

Participants are expected to actively engage in PowerPoint and lesson plan development, classroom instruction, and live scenario situations and facilitation. The class instructors will be current law enforcement officers, police psychologists, mental health providers, and retired law enforcement officers with extensive expertise and experience in verbal de-escalation and crisis management.

- Introduction to HB93 and Interactions with Persons with Mental Illness
- The History of HB93, the NMDPS Curriculum and the Train the Trainer Class
- Verbal De-escalation Basics
- The History of CIT Training Approaches
- Introduction to Abnormal Behavior
- Mental Illness 101
- Destigmatizing Mental Illness
- Communicating with People in Crisis
- Basic Active Listening Skills
- The Four Steps in Training
- Teaching Adult Learners



*NOTE that this is not a CIT Instructor Course & this class does not prepare you to put on a CIT class.

This Class is a NMDPS NMLEA Accredited Class.

COURSE TOPICS & EXERCISES

- Finding Instruction Resources
- Identifying Community Resources
- Giving effective Feedback and Evaluating with a Purpose
- Basic Scenario Development
- Organizing the Scenario Experience
- Training and Preparing Your Facilitator Pool
- Actor Selection, Training, and Preparation
- Running the Scenario Experience
- Tailoring your class to your audience
- Getting the most of a short timeframe

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