



# WADSWORTH *Daily* **THE ePOST**

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# LOCAL NEWS



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Alternative Paths has named the Wadsworth Police Department as the 2022 CIT Police Agency of the Year.

## Alternative Paths names WPD as their CIT Police Agency of the Year

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WADSWORTH – According to an area mental health organization, the folks within the Wadsworth Police Department have shown a deep commitment to assist-

ing the community by providing mental health services, crisis intervention and de-escalation techniques.

Alternative Paths Inc. recently named the Wadsworth Police Department as their 2022 CIT Police Agency of the Year

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for Medina County.

Police Chief Dan Chafin said he is grateful to Alternative Paths for giving them this award as well as the training and the resources they provide for the department.

“Alternative Paths provides crisis intervention training for our officers and it really gives officers the tools, techniques and abilities to meet the needs of individuals we interact with in the community,” Chafin said.

Chafin added that all of the department’s officers receive crisis intervention training from Alternative Paths.

“That is something that is unique about Wadsworth,” Chafin said. “If we get a call from someone asking that we sent a CIT trained officer we can explain that all of our officers have that training.”

Chafin said he believes the training is valuable because officers often have a much better idea of what an individual they are interacting with might need and they can better help them solve problems.

“And really the root of a lot of issues, substance abuse, domestic situations, can be mental health,” Chafin said.

Chafin added that Alternative Paths not only provides the department with crisis intervention training, but also provides police officers and dispatchers with user-friendly online portals where officers can make referrals for individuals they interact with on calls.

“We are so grateful for the good partnership we have with Alternatives Paths,” he said. “I think they help to give our officers tools to keep themselves safe and also achieve a better outcome for the individuals in our community.”

Chafin said he also credits members of the police department and their commitment to mental health advocacy on behalf of the community.