

DATE: December 10, 2010

TO: OTC Behavioral Intervention Team Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Joyce Thomas, Chair, Behavioral Intervention Team

RE: 2010 END-OF-YEAR SUMMARY

OTC's Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) has been formally up and running for a full year. Through the actions of our core team and advisory committee members, along with concerned and vigilant members of our campus community, OTC's Behavioral Intervention Team is well on its way to being the integral component of our overall campus safety plan that we had hoped it would. In 2010 alone, 108 on-line incident reports were submitted to the BIT by concerned faculty, staff, administrators and students.

Although the BIT advisory committee met formally only once this year, many of you have been actively participating in OTC's BIT initiative by attending webinars and seminars sponsored by the BIT, regularly advocating for and educating our campus community about the BIT, submitting excellent suggestions for improvements to our program and referring students of concern through the on-line, Student Concern reporting system (<https://publicdocs.maxient.com/incidentreport.php?OzarksTech>). As the year draws to a close, I wanted to thank each of you for your participation. Below you will find a summary of the activities and progress that has been made to develop an outstanding Behavioral Intervention Team at OTC.

BIT Program Development

- Completed OTC's Behavioral Intervention protocol http://www.otc.edu/Documents_Safety_And_Security/BIT_PROTOCOL.pdf
- Developed and implemented the OTC Risk Assessment Tool http://www.otc.edu/Documents_Safety_And_Security/BIT_threat_assessment_tool.pdf
- Core members participated in weekly meetings to review new and on-going student concern cases

Marketing and Campus Education

- Convened a subcommittee of the BIT advisory committee to brainstorm and make recommendations for a BIT campus education and marketing plan
- Based on the recommendations of the BIT marketing subcommittee and the assistance of OTC's Public Relations department, assisted in the development of the OTCCares "brand," including a new, eye-catching look for the BIT website and matching print materials, which were distributed to the entire campus community (<http://www.otc.edu/otccares/otccares.php>)
- Conducted 11 general information sessions to over 200 participants about the Behavioral Intervention Team initiative and how to "Recognize, Respond, Refer and Report" student concerns
- Sponsored 7 webinars for the core BIT, for advisory committee members and in some cases, for the entire campus community. These included "Identifying and Managing Aggressive Student Behaviors," "Disruptive Classroom Behavior – Keys to Managing Difficult College Students," "Post-Intervention BIT Best Practices," "Violence Goes to College," "Enough is Enough" (Student Affairs preparedness and response to a campus shooting), "Campus Threat Assessment Planning," and "When Is a Counselor Not a Counselor"
- Developed and presented a new professional development education session for the OTC community entitled "Effectively Responding to the Unexpected in the Classroom: A Guide for Faculty"
- Presented informational pieces about the BIT in an OTC Video Newsletter, Employee Newsletter and in the News-Leader
- Participated in a video-taped student presentation about OTC's campus safety and behavioral intervention
- Added BIT information to the STAR Seminar (Student Advising and Registration Seminar)

Community Networking

- Hosted the area Safety Directors' meeting, inviting area college/university Safety & Security Staff, BIT representatives, legal counsel representatives
- Hosted the first networking meeting of our BIT counterparts at area college/universities
- Attended the first meeting of OTC's Wellness Committee, which has just been reconvened and now includes the participation of wellness and safety leaders in our community

Professional Development and Training Participation of BIT Core Members

In addition to participating in the webinars listed above, our BIT core members also participated in the following training:

- MCCA pre-conference, one-day threat assessment training
- Mental Health First Aid, two-day intensive training

Future Endeavors of the BIT Core Members in the Upcoming Year

During the next year, the following are some of the new projects and initiatives we will pursue:

- Formally contract with a local forensic psychologist to conduct psychological evaluations in emergency situations and to serve as a consultant to our team
- Complete the "Frequently Asked Questions" section of our web pages
- Continue to develop relationships with our BIT counterparts at area colleges and universities
- Advocate for a new, full-time position that incorporates the role of a professional counselor with the role of a BIT case manager. This position would give us greater security that students of concern who are referred through the BIT will have consistent and on-going follow-through
- Continue to educate the campus community about the BIT program
- Advocate for additional budget funds for professional development and educational/marketing materials to continue to promote campus awareness and education
- Actively participate in relevant training opportunities for both BIT core team and advisory committee members

On behalf of our Behavioral Intervention Team core members, I thank you again for your ongoing advocacy and commitment to OTC's BIT. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our core members if we can provide additional information or answer your questions concerning OTC's Behavioral Intervention Team initiative.

Joyce Thomas, Chair

Karla Gregg, Chair

Julia Edwards

Deborah Thompson

Pete Rothrock