

DATE: December 19, 2011
TO: OTC Behavioral Intervention Team Advisory Committee Members
FROM: Joyce Thomas, Chair, Behavioral Intervention Team
RE: 2011 END-OF-YEAR SUMMARY

OTC's Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) has completed its second full year of service to the OTC community. Our BIT core and advisory committee members, along with concerned and vigilant members of our campus community, have helped make OTC's Behavioral Intervention Team an integral component of our overall campus safety plan. In 2011, 304 online incident reports were submitted to the BIT by concerned employees and students. This is a 182% increase; up from 108 online incident reports submitted in 2010.

On behalf of our core BIT, we sincerely thank our Advisory Committee members who continue to serve as advocates for OTC's BIT. We appreciate your help in educating our campus community about the overall mission and purpose of *OTC Cares*.

Below you will find a summary of our work during 2011:

BIT Development

- Completed OTC's Behavioral Intervention FAQ section of our webpages: www.otc.edu/bit/8194.php. Our FAQs are featured on the NaBITA (National Behavioral Intervention Team Association) website.
- Finalized a formal contract with a local forensic psychologist to conduct psychological evaluations in emergency situations, and to serve as a consultant to our BIT.
- Assisted in the development and project completion of the *OTC Cares* video, which is shown to all new employees and can be accessed from *OTC Cares* www.otc.edu/otccares.
- Core members participated in weekly meetings to review new, and monitor on-going, student-of-concern cases.

Marketing and Campus Education

- Conducted *OTC Cares* general information sessions to over 800 participants on how to *Recognize, Respond, Refer and Report* student concerns. This included presenting at OTC's fall convocation, for our Board of Trustees, and for numerous OTC committees and departments.
- Conducted 8 *OTC Cares* professional development sessions for faculty, *Effectively Responding to the Unexpected in the Classroom: A Guide for Faculty*, reaching approximately 50 of our full and adjunct OTC faculty members.
- Sponsored webinars for the core BIT, for advisory committee members and in some cases, for the entire campus community. These included *Domestic Violence at the College Campus; Understanding Criminal History Record Information; Case Management: Preventing Violence; Mental Health at the Community College: Issues, Services & Resources; 2011 Success for Veterans; Post-Traumatic Stress Issues in Returning Vet Students; and Criminals on Campus: Ways to Handle Offenders on Your Campus*.
- Printed and distributed OTC instructor grade books, which included a page dedicated to *OTC Cares* and the signs to recognize and respond to students in distress.
- Taught 6 sessions of the Mental Health First Aid training to employees, certifying approximately 75 OTC employees as Mental Health First-Aiders. In addition, 2 sections of Mental Health First Aid (PSY 295) were taught with 14 OTC students in attendance.

Community Networking

- Hosted 1 meeting of our BIT Consortium, comprised of BIT counterparts at area colleges and universities.
- Presented *Effectively Responding to the Unexpected in the Classroom: A Guide for Faculty* at MCCA.
- Continued attending OTC's Wellness Committee; comprised 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:

- Mental Health First Aid Instructor Certification
- Mental Health First Aid Certification
- Missouri Safe Schools & Colleges Conference
- NaBITA Conference

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 are pursuing:

- 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 ongoing follow-through.
- Schedule professional development opportunities for our BIT Consortium and Advisory Committee members; using the expertise of our Forensic Psychologist.
- Revise and update BIT Protocol.
- Continue to develop relationships in the BIT Consortium.
- Continue with ongoing education of BIT to our campus communities.
- Advocate for additional budget funds to continue to promote campus awareness, education, and training.
- 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.

Joyce Thomas, Chair
Karla Gregg, Vice-Chair
Julia Edwards
Deborah Thompson
Peter Rothrock