

DATE: December 19, 2012

TO: OTC Behavioral Intervention Team Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Joyce Thomas, Chair, Behavioral Intervention Team

RE: 2012 END-OF-YEAR SUMMARY

OTC's Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) has completed its third full year of service to our OTC communities. Our BIT core and advisory committee members, along with concerned and vigilant employees and students, continue to ensure that we are reaching students in distress much earlier and that OTC's Behavioral Intervention Team remains an integral component of our overall college safety plan. In 2012, 502 online incident reports were submitted to the BIT by concerned employees and students. **This is a 62% increase**, up from 304 online incident reports submitted in 2011 (108 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 colleagues and students about the overall mission and purpose of OTCCares and the Behavioral Intervention Team. We also thank Peter Rothrock, College Director of Safety & Security (retired), who was instrumental in the development of OTC's BIT and served on the core team during the past three years. We extend deep gratitude to Director Rothrock for his dedication and service.

Below you will find a summary of our work during 2012.

BIT Development

- Began our relationship with a local forensic psychologist who served as an expert consultant to our BIT, conducted emergency psychological evaluation services for us, and conducted two, professional development workshops for OTC employees and our BIT Consortium members on the topics of risk and violence assessment.
- Core members participated in weekly meetings to review new, and monitor on-going, student-of-concern cases. Extended length of weekly meetings to two hours in response to the increase in reports. Our contracted forensic psychologist attended at least one weekly BIT meeting per month.
- Core members participated in the first annual BIT planning retreat.
- Welcomed newly hired College Director of Safety & Security, Scott Leven, to the core BIT.

Marketing and Campus Education

- Conducted OTCCares general information sessions to hundreds of members of our campus community on how to *Recognize, Respond, Refer and Report* students of concern. This included presenting to all developmental education faculty, at the New Faculty Institute, at several OTC department meetings and for numerous OTC classes (including CAC 120, PSY 100 and TLC courses).
- Conducted 7 OTCCares professional development programs for faculty, *Effectively Responding to the Unexpected in the Classroom: A Guide for Faculty*, reaching both full and adjunct OTC faculty.
- Developed a new professional development program specifically for staff, *Effectively Responding to the Unexpected: A Guide for Staff*, reaching staff on OTC's main and Richwood Valley campuses.
- Sponsored webinars for the core BIT and for advisory committee members. These included *From Combat to Campus, Title II: Direct Threat, Ending Campus Violence*, and *Title IX Updates*.
- Printed and distributed OTC instructor grade books, which included a page dedicated to OTCCares and the signs to recognize and respond to students in distress.
- Designed, printed and distributed OTCCares "mood cups" at BIT/OTCCares information tables that were set up during campus picnics and other campus events.

- Taught 3 sessions of the Mental Health First Aid training to employees, certifying approximately 45 OTC employees as Mental Health First-Aiders. In addition, 3 sections of Mental Health First Aid (PSY 295) were taught with 15 OTC students in attendance.

Local/National Networking

- Hosted 2 meetings/professional development opportunities for our BIT Consortium, comprised of BIT counterparts at area colleges and universities. BIT representatives from Drury, MSU, Evangel and SBU attended at least one of the Consortium gatherings.
- Presented “A BIT about the Community College” (a presentation about OTCCares, OTC’s BIT and the use of Maxient software) at MaxFest (National Maxient Users Conference).
- Consulted with national leaders in the field of behavioral intervention to provide examples of BIT best practices at the community college. This included assisting in a national research study on behavioral intervention in higher education, which is being conducted by the Educational Advisory Board.
- Continued participation on OTC’s Wellness Committee, comprised of wellness and safety leaders in our community.

Professional Development and Training

In addition to participating in the webinars listed above and consulting with national leaders in the field, our BIT core members also participated in the following training:

- National Behavioral Intervention Team Association (NaBITA) national conference
- NaBITA Threat Management Institute
- MaxFest Software Users Conference
- Crisis Response Training (sponsored by the Missouri College Personnel Association)

Future Endeavors of the BIT Core Members for 2013

The following are some of the new projects and initiatives we will be pursuing in 2013:

- Advocate for a new, full-time BIT Case Manager position. 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 and other national experts in the field.
- Revise and update BIT Protocol.
- Continue to develop relationships and grow the BIT Consortium.
- Continue with ongoing education of BIT to our OTC communities, which will include development of new OTCCares/BIT-related topics.
- Explore the development of an employee BIT.
- Participate in 2nd annual BIT planning retreat.
- 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.

BIT Core Team

Joyce Thomas, Chair
 Karla Gregg, Vice-Chair
 Julia Edwards
 Scott Leven
 Dr. Loren Lundstrom
 Deborah Thompson