

DATE: December 19, 2013

TO: OTC Behavioral Intervention Team Advisory Committee Members

FROM: Joyce Bateman, Chair, Behavioral Intervention Team

RE: 2013 END-OF-YEAR SUMMARY

OTC's Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) has completed its fourth 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 2013, 581 online incident reports were submitted to the BIT by employees and students. This is a 16% increase, up from 502 online reports submitted in 2012 (304 reports were submitted in 2011 and 108 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 continued help in educating colleagues and students about the overall mission and purpose of OTCCares and the Behavioral Intervention Team.

Below you will find a summary of our work during 2013.

BIT Development

- Continued our relationship with forensic psychologist, Dr. David Mrad. Dr. Mrad serves as expert consultant to our BIT, conducts emergency psychological evaluation services for students who appear to be at high risk of harm to self or others, provides threat and risk assessment guidance to our Team, and conducts professional development workshops for OTC employees and our BIT Consortium members. In 2013, Dr. Mrad presented to our BIT Consortium on the topic of stalking behaviors and risk assessment.
- Core members participated in weekly meetings to review new, and monitor on-going, student-of-concern cases. As occurred in 2012, it was necessary to extend the length of the BIT weekly meetings. In response to the continued increase in and severity of reports, our core BIT now meets for two and a half hours each week (up from 2 hours last year). Our contracted forensic psychologist attended at least one weekly BIT meeting per month.
- Core members participated in the second annual BIT planning retreat.
- The core BIT welcomed Dr. Loren Lundstrom, OTC's Assistant Dean of Enrollment and Director of International Programs, to the Team.

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 OTC's Board of Trustees, at OTC Council and department meetings, and for numerous OTC classes (including CAC 120, PSY 100, TLC 023, and PSY 295 courses).
- Conducted the BIT's *Effectively Responding to the Unexpected in the Classroom: A Guide for Faculty* presentation six times to fulltime and adjunct faculty, including faculty attending OTC's Celebration of Developmental Education event.
- Developed a new professional development program entitled *The Behavioral Intervention Team: General Information and Violent Behavior Explored* and presented the program to faculty during OTC's New Faculty Institute as well as to OTC students enrolled in PHL courses on the Springfield campus.
- Co-sponsored a webinar for the core BIT and for advisory committee members entitled *BIT and Threat Assessment in the Community College-2-Year Setting*.
- For the third year at faculty request, 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 notepads at BIT/OTCCares information tables that were set up during campus picnics, Welcome Days, and other all-campus events.
- Designed OTCCares t-shirts and buttons and distributed to employees (BIT Advisory committee members, Finance Office, TLC, Student Services, at Education Centers, RV and Table Rock campuses). T-shirts were also distributed to students in classrooms and at Counseling Services information tables.
- Organized OTC's first, "Celebrate OTCCares" Day, inviting employees to wear their OTCCares shirt/button. We will continue this tradition at least twice a year.

- Taught 3 sessions of the Mental Health First Aid training to employees, certifying approximately 55 OTC employees as Mental Health First-Aiders. In addition, 2 sections of Mental Health First Aid (PSY 295) were taught with 15 OTC students in attendance. The OTCCares message was shared at each of these MHFA trainings.
- Conducted training to Education Center Directors in the use of MAXIENT software and BIT reporting.

Local/National Networking

- Hosted 2 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. Presentation topics included stalking behaviors and synthetic drugs.
- Deborah Thompson and Joyce Bateman presented *"If Only We Had Known: 13 Lessons Learned for Creating and Maintaining an Effective BIT"* (a presentation about OTCCares and the BIT during OTC's first three years of development and implementation) at the 5th annual NaBITA Conference (National Behavioral Intervention Team Association).
- Joyce Bateman was a contributing writer to a research article authored by Dr. David Mrad. The article has been submitted to Psychological Services, a scholarly journal of the American Psychological Association. The article, entitled *"A Model of Service and Training: Threat Assessment on a Community College Campus,"* features the collaborative relationship that OTC's BIT has with the Forest Institute School of Professional Psychology and highlights how OTC's BIT operates.
- Members of OTC's BIT contributed to the Education Advisory Board's (EAB) 2013 Student Affairs Forum publication entitled, *"Responding to Students of Concern. Best Practices for Behavioral Intervention Teams."* Our contribution included best practice recognition of OTC's Behavioral Intervention Team, our OTCCares initiative, and our comprehensive website.

Professional Development and Training

In addition to participating in the webinar listed above and regularly 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's BIT Best Practices Certification Course
- The Gehring Academy for Student Conduct Administration
- Missouri Safe Schools and College Conference
- Heartland Campus Safety Summit
- Stop the Violence Seminar

Future Endeavors of the BIT Core Members for 2013

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

- Continue to 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, Advisory Committee members, and OTC employees, using the expertise of core BIT members, OTC's forensic psychologist, and other national experts in the field.
- Continue to develop relationships and grow the BIT Consortium.
- Explore the development of an employee BIT.
- Continue to develop innovative ways to educate OTC's student population about OTCCares and the BIT.
- Participate in the 3rd 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.
- Expand the "Celebrate OTCCares" days.

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 Bateman, Chair
 Karla Gregg, Vice-Chair
 Julia Edwards
 Scott Leven
 Loren Lundstrom
 Deborah Thompson