

**DATE:** December 17, 2014

**TO:** OTC Behavioral Intervention Team Advisory Committee Members

**FROM:** Joyce Bateman, Chair, Behavioral Intervention Team

**RE:** 2014 END-OF-YEAR SUMMARY

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OTC's Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) has completed its fifth 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 2014, 680 online incident reports were submitted to the BIT by employees and students.** This marks another year of increase in incidents reported (a 17% increase), up from 581 reports submitted in 2013 (502 reports were submitted in 2012. 304 were submitted in 2011 and 108 were 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 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 2014.

#### **BIT Development**

- Continued to develop our relationship with forensic psychologist, Dr. David Mrad. Dr. Mrad serves as expert consultant to our BIT, conducts forensic 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.
- Core members participated in 2 ½ hour weekly meetings to review new, and monitor on-going, student-of-concern cases. Our contracted forensic psychologist attended at least one weekly BIT meeting per month.
- Core members participated in their third annual BIT planning retreat.
- Staff from MAXIENT provided an on-site training to the BIT to assist us in more effectively utilizing the software.

#### **Marketing and Campus Education**

- Presented an overview of OTCCares and the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) during employee professional development and Council meetings. Presentations were given during adjunct and new-faculty development days, to Table Rock staff, to the Student Affairs and Strategic Planning Councils, to OTC's Foundation Board, for New Employee Orientation sessions, and for adjunct and full-time faculty. BIT Presentations were also given in numerous OTC classes (including CAC 120, PSY 100, TLC 023, and PSY 295 courses).
- Developed a new professional development program entitled *Ten Core Concepts for Creating a Positive Learning Environment* and presented it to adjunct and full-time faculty during August professional development days.
- Presented *Responding to Chemically Impaired Students* for employees during OTC's April 2014 professional development offerings.
- Included OTCCares and BIT information during Safety & Security and VAWA-Clery Act presentations for students and employees.
- For the fourth 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, at the Veterans' Fairs, and other all-campus events.
- Organized several "Celebrate OTCCares" Days, 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 and community members, certifying approximately 45 OTC employees as Mental Health First-Aiders. In addition, 2 sections of Mental Health First Aid (PSY 295) were offered to students for college credit. The OTCCares message was shared at each of these MHFA trainings.
- Conducted two, formal debriefing sessions with faculty reporters who were involved with some of our more complex student behavioral cases. We will continue with this type of debriefing in the future to help us develop stronger connections with our reporters.

### **Local/National Networking**

- Published an article to Psychological Services, a scholarly journal of the American Psychological Association. The article is entitled "A Model of Service and Training: Threat Assessment on a Community College Campus" and features general information about OTC's BIT along with a description of the collaborative relationship that our BIT has with the Forest Institute School of Professional Psychology.
- Developed the program *"The Behavioral Intervention Team and the OTCCares Initiative: How developing a campus culture of care changed a course of disruption to one of success and health"* and had it presented to participants at the Association of Community College Trustees Leadership Congress. Joan Barrett, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, presented the program on our BIT's behalf.
- Provided information on OTCCares and on-line reporting for KSPR.

### **Professional Development and Training**

The core BIT, along with members of OTC's Title IX team and BIT Advisory committee participated in the following BIT-sponsored programs and webinars: *"Battlemind," "Care & Conduct in the Community College," "Managing Faculty/Staff Expectations following BIT Interventions,"* and *"MAXIENT Basics."*

In addition to participating in these programs and regularly consulting with national leaders in the field, our BIT core members also participated in the following trainings:

- National Behavioral Intervention Team Association (NaBITA) national conference
- Meeting of the Minds conference
- Stop the Violence Seminar

### **Future Endeavors of the BIT Core Members for 2013**

The following are some of the goals and projects we will be pursuing in 2014:

- Continue to advocate for a new, full-time BIT Case Manager position. This position would ensure greater security that students of concern who are referred through the BIT will have consistent and ongoing monitoring and care.
- Enhance the OTCCares/BIT pages of OTC's website.
- Finish development and implementation of a BIT, voice-over presentation for OTC's website.
- Schedule professional development opportunities for our BIT Consortium, Advisory Committee members, and OTC employees, using the expertise of core BIT members, OTC's contracted psychologist, and other national experts in the field.
- Continue to develop innovative ways to educate OTC's student population about OTCCares and the BIT.
- Participate in the 4th 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 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 Bateman, Chair  
Karla Gregg, Vice-Chair  
Julia Edwards  
Scott Leven  
Loren Lundstrom  
Deborah Thompson