

## CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM

April 21, 2016

EIBCC

### Overview of CRT

- Defining Crisis Response Team
  - **Crisis:** traumatic events like shooting or a massive heart attack in the worship center; it can also be outside the church...fatal car accident (example of Ankeny shooting)
  - **Response:** plan ready to go
  - **Team** of people prepared to help if such an event did take place
    - Don't have to be experts in trauma care, but good listeners and facilitators (harder cases could come to your more trained counselors)
  - God can be gracious in crisis even if we are not prepared: Sam Mortvedt—God's provision (Bob and Trudy Mann); yet the Scriptures call us to be wise and prepared whenever possible as we live in a fallen world
  
- Laying out your church's Action Plan
  - Church Leadership decides if the event should be defined as a catastrophic/crisis event (some are close but not crisis for the whole body—Bob Techau example; one local church did this after 9-11)
  - Communication process: email sent out by assigned leader which would include details on prayer and debrief meetings (such as time and place)
  - Preceding the debrief meetings, everyone would gather for a time of prayer
  
  - Size of the **debrief groups:** 12 max (want everyone to be able to share)
  - How the make-up of groups are decided: after the prayer time, explain to people what group would be their best fit, depending on their connection to the event/people involved
    - Describe that further: think of concentric circles around the incident or person according to intensity of the actual experience: one group might be people sitting close...heart attack; or witnessed the car accident; or were in nursery when the child had a seizure and died
    - Or by intensity in terms of relationship: family members, close friends, people who knew him or her as an acquaintance in the lobby
    - Youth: who would they open up with most? Their peers? Or rather stay with their parents/family? If they met with their peers, the youth leader involved could send follow-up email to their parents
    - Children: children's leader will meet with the parents, so they can know how to talk to their kids

- Before the follow-up, you as a Crisis Team Member would receive an additional email from the CRT leader, inviting you to arrive :30+ early to review and share needed information specific to the crisis
- After the facilitation groups, conduct a debriefing meeting for the leaders
- Basic commitment for CRT team members—being on call in case of a traumatic event; once a year refresher meeting; have info/folder at home that you can pull out as needed

#### Debriefing Session

- Go over the 8 phases ([separate handout](#))

#### Final ideas

- Consider doing a role play for your training sessions
- It is imperative to inform your staff about the CRT and invite them to be a part; whether they join or not, require that they attend a short informational meeting and give them each a binder/folder that they can pull out as needed
- The key and first duty after leadership approval is to train and form your team
- Discuss the CRT plan with the head of your security team, and possibly the whole team; they might be most affected if there is a tragedy involving them
- Materials for debrief groups: decaf coffee, water, facial tissue, nametags and sharpies, follow-up cards and pens, cookies optional
- You may want to send follow-up emails to the entire church at strategic times following the debrief sessions (e.g., after the funeral, a month later, etc.); you can also offer a Grief Share class if death was involved.
- This can become a way to serve your community. Talk to local school administrators to see if they have a plan in place in event of a crisis. If they already do, ask if your team can join them
- Craft your CRT to meet the specific needs of your church and community

Any questions or comments?