

## THE OHIO CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Ohio Crisis Response Team (OCRT) is a group of NOVA (National Organization for Victim Assistance) trained professionals organized to provide crisis intervention, support services, and training to communities in the aftermath of a traumatic event.

### REFERRAL PROCEDURES

The Ohio Crisis Response Team provides services, upon request, to any community within the State of Ohio where a crisis-like event has taken place. Examples of such trauma inducing events would be: criminal incidents of a nature that effect a specific or entire community like homicide, robbery, missing children; incidents such as serious automobile accidents, suicides, multiple deaths from any means; and incidents involving natural or manmade disasters such as floods, violent storms, plane crashes, industrial accidents or fires. An Ohio Crisis Response team is dispatched 24-hours through the Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification in London, Ohio or with the assistance of advocates at the Victim/Witness Division of the Greene County Prosecutor's Office in Xenia, Ohio.

## SERVICES

OCRT will send a team to any community in Ohio upon official request. This official request or invitation should come from someone with authority at the site of the community crisis. Generally, team members can respond within twenty-four (24) hours. The team will remain in the community no more than forty-eight (48) hours. The individual or agency requesting the team may be asked to assist the team leader in arranging overnight accommodations. In addition, the response team will require assistance in locating a private area in a public building of adequate size to provide training to local community members, and to hold group crisis intervention sessions for victims, care-providers and first responders to the crisis event.

There is **no fee** for OCRT services, however, local community organizations may provide support. If local businesses are able to provide accommodations or meals, for example, this helps to reduce team members' out of pocket expenses.

### AUXILIARY SERVICES

When appropriate, the Ohio Crisis Response Team will request a National Crisis Response Team from the National Organization for Victim Assistance when the scope of the community crisis is extensive, and when national attention may fall upon the Ohio community. After the initial request is made to NOVA, OCRT will serve as an intermediary between the local individual responsible for inviting the NOVA team, and the NOVA staff arranging the national team response.

The Ohio Crisis Response Team will coordinate with existing Critical Incident Stress Management teams, the Red Cross, local crisis teams, or any other organizations responding to the community to insure comprehensive community-wide services and to avoid duplication of services.

Also, in those situations where individuals have specific needs as a result of the community crisis, OCRT will request help from professionals in the community to assist in providing crisis intervention counseling and support on an individual basis.



CALL  
CINDY REAGAN KUHR AT  
(937) 647-6892 (pager)  
(740) 845-2641 (desk)  
or contact her through  
BCI&I  
1-800-282-3784 (24 HOURS)  
OR  
THE GREENE COUNTY  
VICTIM/WITNESS DIVISION  
(937) 562-5087 OR  
(937) 376-5111 (AFTER HOURS)  
ASK FOR ON-CALL ADVOCATE

TO BRING A CRISIS RESPONSE  
TEAM TO YOUR COMMUNITY

## WHAT IS A COMMUNITY CRISIS?

Whole communities, like individuals, may suffer trauma in the aftermath of disasters or especially gruesome crimes. The community may suffer from an effect similar to paralysis. While almost everyone is in shock, individual reactions may vary. Individuals may experience a wide variety of emotions, such as anger, fear, sadness, helplessness, or euphoria.

## HOW CAN A RESPONSE TEAM HELP?

The experienced care givers in the community, who would normally be called upon to help, may also be involved in the crisis as members of the community. For this reason, it often helps to have outsiders come for a short period of time to offer information and suggestions on how to prepare to respond to the community's distress.

## WHO ARE THE OCRT MEMBERS AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

Ohio Crisis Response Team members are professionals, who have completed a forty-hour training program provided by the National Organization for Victim Assistance. Members include victim advocates, clergy, law enforcement personnel, and other specialists who have volunteered to serve.

The OCRT will perform these specific tasks in the community:

- Help local decision makers to identify the groups at risk of experiencing trauma;
- Provide training to the community care givers who must reach out to those groups at risk; and
- Lead one or more group crisis intervention sessions to demonstrate how these private meetings can help victims begin to talk about their reactions to the traumatic event and to cope.

## OCRT & NOVA ~ Sept. 11, 2001

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>, NOVA was invited to respond to New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Proudly, OCRT participated as a part of the NOVA teams that went in to the New York/New Jersey area to work at the New Jersey Family Assistance Center in the months that followed. They provided "companion" services to the survivors, family members and friends of those who had lost their lives. As a result, the Governor of Ohio, in behalf of all of Ohio's responders, received the following letter from former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani:

September 5, 2002

Dear Ohioans:

On the first anniversary date of September 11, 2001, I remember with equal clarity both the horrifying events and the heroism of those who rallied to help their fellow Americans. I want to extend heartfelt appreciation to all Ohioans who came to the aid of the victims, their families, our local emergency personnel, and New York City as a whole. Several Ohioans were among those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup> and their families have my deepest sympathy.

Thousands of Ohioans responded to our needs, such as the members of the Ohio Task Force One, which was one of the first search and rescue teams called to the scene; staff and volunteers of the Ohio chapter of the American Red Cross; members of the *Ohio Crisis Response Team*; Critical Incident Stress Management Teams; and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. The Buckeye State also sent many personnel, dentists, counselors, spiritual leaders, heavy equipment operators, specialized technicians and other such professionals and volunteers.

Throughout Ohio, adults, children, businesses and community organizations organized fundraisers, collected supplies and raised money for new fire equipment for the city. The Ohio Army and Air National Guard and military personnel from all branches of service answered the call to serve, many of them are still serving today, protecting our homeland and fighting terrorism. Many more of you gave in your own personal way by sharing in our sorrow and keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. On behalf of the City of New York, I express my deepest gratitude. Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely,  
Rudolph W. Giuliani

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