

## **Chapter 4**

### **MENTAL HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **PRE-PLAN PREVENTION PHASE RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **TRAINING**

- A. The Isabella County Crisis Response Team should conduct training in *The Crisis Response Defusing and Debriefing Model* by Jeffrey Mitchell) for:
  - 1. Task Force members and at least four clergy by August 2001.
  - 2. At least one individual from each school in Isabella County by December 2001.
  - 3. Other community members as deemed appropriate, with identification badges awarded to those who complete training and subsequently join the Isabella County Crisis Response Team.
- B. At-risk factors identified in the FBI study (see Appendix J) should be given to school staff, as well as presented in news articles for the community. Subsequent forums could be done as needed. At risk youth can be identified and referred to available resources such as: Community Mental Health/School Partnership Staff, school counselors, social workers, and school psychologists.
- C. Acknowledge the diversity of the community via joint meetings between the task force and the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Behavioral Health Program. Unique needs, common denominators and cultural differences could be explored.
- D. Provide periodic joint meetings of helping professionals to establish and continue all organizations and groups working together. For example, Community Services After Hours could be implemented to provide a less formal structure for such networking to occur. Consultations with members of collaborative service bodies will be conducted to determine how this can be done. Grant funding will be pursued to assist with this venture.

- E. Violent incidents reports could be made available for an interdisciplinary, community based staffing in which trends would be noted and prevention and intervention strategies explored. Such staffing will be coordinated by the Mount Pleasant Police Department. The list of early identification and at risk factors will be presented at the interdisciplinary community-based staffing (coordinated by the Mount Pleasant Police Department).
- F. Coordinate in advance with leadership of the following to encourage mandatory crisis debriefing: law enforcement, schools, and fire department staff, school personnel (to include support staff and substitute teachers) supervisors in advance to discuss making crisis debriefings mandatory for all staff.

#### **INCIDENT CRISIS PHASE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A. Through Listening Ear or Central Dispatch, contact the County Crisis Response Team Coordinator. The coordinator should contact members by phone or by local radio broadcasts and determine the need to contact the Michigan Crisis Response Team and National Organization of Victim Assistance (NOVA).
- B. The County Crisis Response Team Coordinator should work with school personnel to determine logistics of debriefings and defusings (e.g., locations, number of team members needed and scheduling.)

#### **POST-INCIDENT FOLLOW-UP PHASE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- A. Immediately after the crisis, Isabella Crisis Response Team members should conduct defusings at the site of the crisis, in hospitals and with first responders going off duty.

- B. Within 72 hours of the crisis, debriefings should begin and continue as needed. Debriefings should be done with students, school staff, rescue personnel and law enforcement personnel as needed. These should also include debriefings for spouses, family members, and the community at large, as needed.
- C. If needed, continuing support groups for individuals directly involved in the incident should be scheduled in conjunction with school personnel.