

**JISA 2008 ANNUAL PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE
JAMAICA GRANDE, OCHO RIOS**

Emergency and Crisis Management for Schools

Presented by
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April 18, 2008

***"Crises are dangerous
opportunities"***

Chinese saying





DEFINING CRISIS

"a temporary state of upset and disorganization"

"a state of 'psychological disequilibrium'"



Range of Potential Crisis Situations

- Natural disasters
- Violence, Suicide and Death related to friend/ family
- Gang activity
- Snipers, school shootings, drive-bys
- Hostage-taking
- Rape, sexual and physical abuse
- Drug abuse and medical emergencies

School-based Crisis Interventions

- Range of responses to crisis events and reactions that schools can plan and implement
- All school-based and school linked-staff can play a role
- Local (on site) vs. Global (national/city) requirements vary



Major Facets of Crises Response

DURING THE EMERGENCY

Communication

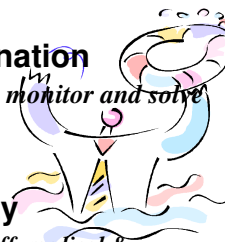
sound alarm, clarifying additional steps and providing info about the event, tracking students and staff, responding to parents

Direction and Coordination

Establish emergency operations centre, monitor and solve problems

Health and Safety

Mitigate hazards to protect students and staff, medical & psychological first aid, search and rescue, security, evacuation





Major Facets of Crises Response

IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH

Communication

Clarify causes and impact, debunk rumours, provide information about available resources for medical and psychological help

Direction and Coordination

determine the need to maintain emergency operations centre, continue to monitor and solve problems

Health and Safety

Continue activities initiated during the event



Major Facets of Crises Response

DAYS/WEEKS FOLLOWING

Communication

Provide closure to students, staff, parents, community

Direction and Coordination

Continue to monitor and solve problems

Health and Safety

Provide for those in need of longer term treatment through direct services or referrals during the event; case management



Major Facets of Crises Response

PREVENTION

Communication

- *Hold debriefing meetings, analyze and clarify deficiencies in response to the crisis*

Direction and Coordination

- *Use debriefing analyses to plan ways to prevent similar events from occurring, minimize impact of unavoidable events, to improve crisis response procedures and to enhance resources*

Health and Safety

- *Provide education for students, staff and parents, services or referrals, case management*



RESPONDING TO CRISES: General Principles

- Immediate Response- Focus on Restoring Equilibrium**
- Move the student/staff from Victim to Actor**
- Connect the student/staff with Immediate Social Support**
- Take Care of the Caretakers**
- Provide for Aftermath Interventions (Follow-up assistance)**



ORGANIZE YOUR RESPONSE TEAM

- 1. INVITE KEY PERSONS – sample letter**
- 2. COMPLETE SELF STUDY SURVEY**
- 3. GATHER TOOLS**
- 4. ASSIGN TEAM MEMBERSHIP, ROLES, and FUNCTIONS**
- 5. GROUP ACTIVITY – Complete SAMPLE FRAMEWORK for a CRISIS SCENARIO**
 - Choose a scribe and a presenter*
 - Groups of 12 – 10 minutes to brainstorm & write*
 - 2 minutes to present*



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THANK YOU!

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