

Threat Assessment Committee Meeting

Christanna Campus
Library Conference Room (B-11)
October 19, 2009 – 3:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting

Present: Peter Hunt, convener
Bethany Harris
Angela Jackson
Judy Shepherd
Dorothea Sizemore
James Taylor
Doug Whaley
Dale Wooding
Roger Wray

Absent: Emily Noblin

Mr. Hunt called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. This is the first Threat Assessment Team Meeting. The purpose for the team is to determine the level of threats that may arise on either campus. The threat could be issued by outside sources, faculty, staff or students. It is required that members of the team consist of representatives from the certified mental health profession, local law enforcements, sheriff office and surrounding police departments. Christanna Campus area of coverage would include the police departments of Alberta and Lawrenceville.

I. Introduction

A roundtable introduction was done from each team member.

II. Overview of Campus Threats

Mr. Hunt gave an overview from the handout, *Recommended Practices for Virginia College Threat Assessment*. The college environment is relatively safe; however, everyone is aware of the incidents that happened at VA Tech. The worse situation could occur if the college was not prepared for any type of threat. It is important to be able to determine if the threat issued is serious enough to continue operations on campus or not. It was reported that out of 4,200 colleges, 26 murders actually occurred on campus. Mr. Hunt shared the bomb threat incidents that occurred on John Daniel campus in Keysville a few years ago. Community college environments are different from larger institutions due to limited law enforcements on campus.

Mr. Hunt questioned whether the counselors had a precautionary method in place as to when students were referred to a mental health professional. Mr. Wooding questioned whether it was legal to have academic counselors involved with situations that may need to be handled by a mental health professional (i.e. Picket Park incident last year required a mental health professional.) Mr. Hunt contacted Charles Devine in relation to having a mental health professional available for the college, but he has not received any feedback. He will also contact the law enforcement agencies associated with each campus.

Mr. Hunt shared key points from the Threat Assessment PowerPoint presentation.

- What is Threat Assessment
- What are Threats (Direct, Indirect, Behavior, Conflicts or disputes)
- 4 Steps in Threat Assessment (Identification, Evaluation, Intervention, Follow-up)
- Transient vs. Substantive threats
- Responses to threats
- Law Enforcement intervention

Mr. Hunt will request permission to distribute copies of the presentation. Once approval is granted, all committee members will receive a copy of the PowerPoint presentation.

III. Discussion of Operating Procedures

It was determined that a Threat Assessment Operating Procedure needs to be developed. Mr. Hunt asked if anyone would like to serve as the committee chairperson. The chairperson would be responsible for implementing the operating procedures. Bethany Harris was nominated to serve as the chairperson, but she declined. Mrs. Harris suggested that someone with more authority should chair this procedure development.

IV. Identification of Issues

All referrals of threats are to be reported to Mr. Hunt ext. 1005 and after hours to local law enforcement. Mr. Hunt expressed how important it is to be able to deal with situations on campus and at the off-campus sites. It is important that information is shared with everyone and they are aware of any threats on campus or off-campus site. Information can also be reported to the committee members.

V. Threat Assessment Forum at VA Tech

The Threat Assessment Forum is scheduled at VA Tech from December 1 - 2, 2009. Mr. Hunt asked that each committee member try to attend. The forum will provide more insights on campus threat issues and how to handle certain situations which may occur on campus.

VI. Open Discussion

Mr. Whaley - expressed concerns with staff members not trained as security officers, but involved with issues on campus and the liability.

Dr. Taylor – shared an experience he had with one of his students. The issue was addressed and student is doing better.

Mr. Hunt – will contact the local law enforcement agency and ask if the officer who patrols the campus would also walk around the campus, particularly in the buildings. The presence of an officer could make a lot of difference. An exercise on campus will involve local agencies and they will be given floor plans of the campuses.

Mrs. Harris - will share a video from VA Wesleyan College about crisis management.

Mr. Wooding - shared information that requires any security officer on campus to participate in two-day training before being hired (mandatory training).

Mr. Wray - problem issues may occur on campus in the DVD/TV area of the student lounge. Mr. Hunt will share this issue in the next Campus Council meeting.

Mr. Whaley - a good book to purchase on *Crisis Management* written by Kristy Kannell.

VII. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is January 2010. Prior notification will be emailed to committee members.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 P.M.

signature of file
Peter G. Hunt, convener

11-17-09
Date

signature on file
Angela Jackson, Administrative Asst.

11-17-09
Date