



WYO CISM NET

A Newsletter for Critical Incident Responders in Wyoming

December, 2006

FIFTH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE – Casper, WY – November 8-11, 2006

Team members and CISM trained responders from around the state attended the Fifth Annual Disaster Mental Health Conference in Casper in November. They discussed networking during a couple of the Table Top Discussions set up for that purpose. Participants in these networking Table Tops came from Rock Springs, Casper, Laramie, Gillette, Hulet, Torrington, Niobrara County, the Wind River Reservation, Riverton and Sheridan.

Richard Conroy from Weber State University in Utah presented information about the online update course that he is developing online for ICISF. We were privileged to be the first site in the country to have an in-depth look at this course and information. It is scheduled to be active, online and available around the time of the ICISF World Congress in February, 2007. One of the objectives of their grant was to help make training information available to students in new and innovative ways. The pilot course developed for online access is titled *The Changing Face of Crisis and Disaster Mental Health Intervention*. This course provides an ongoing update in the fields of critical incident response, crisis intervention, and disaster mental health. These fields are in constant flux, evolving with every major disaster. Every week the headlines reflect terrorism, natural disasters, and fears of pandemics. New information comes out regularly. It is therefore necessary to keep those who must meet these challenges abreast of important changes as they occur. These updates can be an important medium to provide access to the latest trends, theories, and practices.

Life After a Terrorist Attack

Joshua Faudem, a documentary film maker from Tel Aviv, Israel was the Keynote presenter at the conference. He presented information and a film about a suicide bombing that occurred at Mike's Place after midnight on Wednesday, April 30th, 2003. Death and injury came in the twinkling of an eye, intruding on the idyll the filmmakers had begun to capture: a suicide bomber exploded himself on Jam Nite. Blues By The Beach (the documentary about this bombing) not only has footage of a suicide bombing; the film shows the effects of terror, the aftermath and moving on. For more information about the speaker and his documentary and experiences, go to: <http://www.joshuafaudem.com/> You can also access a short five minute film clip about the bombing online. Mike's Place is a rock and roll bar next to the American Embassy in Tel Aviv. On April 23, 2003, two well-dressed young men with British passports approached. Avi Tabib was the security guard who sensed something was unusual about these customers and confronted them at the curb. The explosion that followed killed four including the terrorist and wounded over fifty. Avi survived, but experienced a long and painful recovery. Based on interviews with Avi and other survivors, this presentation detailed his resiliency and the fortitude of coworkers who reopened Mike's Place on Israel's Independence Day one week after the attack.

Other Presentations

In the United States, preparation for a potential influenza pandemic is receiving heightened media coverage and scrutiny. Scientific attention is focused on the potential for the current Southeastern Asian avian flu virus, influenza A (H5N1), to become a pandemic threat through genetic mutation and viral reassortment. Pandemic Influenza is currently a major global public health concern and the focus of extensive ongoing planning efforts at the federal, state, and local level. Dr. Richard Luce from the Wyoming State Department of Health provided a basic review of the history and biology of influenza viruses, an update on the current avian influenza situation internationally, and provided information on preparation and planning efforts being conducted by the Wyoming Department of Health.

In October 2005, the United States Department of Health and Human Services published a warning of a new influenza pandemic. It proposed a scenario in which 8.5 million Americans would be hospitalized and 1.9 million would die. In the event of this catastrophe or a biological/chemical terrorism attack, overextended local medical facilities will be confronted by a crush of non-exposed citizens while trying to deal with those who have been infected. Thom Curtis, Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii at Hilo proposed a role for disaster mental health workers in assisting the medical community to triage and separate the sick from the merely worried.

On the afternoon of the first day, Stewart Anderson, Natrona County Emergency Management Coordinator and Theresa Simpson, Deputy EM Coordinator presented a discussion on the aspects of fighting the Jackson Canyon Fire on Casper Mountain last August. Response involved coordinating the largest evacuation/sheltering in Wyoming and took a toll on both evacuees and responders.

David King, Campbell County Emergency Manager and Leslie Flocchini presented information concerning the response to the Wright Tornado on August 12th, 2005 which led to a Presidential Disaster Declaration. The recovery efforts are still on-going for some Wright residents, however much of the community has resumed a normal routine. David King oversaw the Emergency Operations Center in the days and weeks that followed the tornado's impact. Leslie Flocchini has been one of the leaders in working with Wright residents in the aftermath and recovery of the community.

Allison Sage provided information about the ongoing development process of constructing an All Hazards Emergency Preparedness System for the Wind River Indian Reservation. The Wind River Indian Reservation has two tribes living on it and consists of 2.2 million acres. The population of the enrolled members of both tribes and the residents of Fremont County is close to 34,000. The presentation discussed the collaboration of a multitude of Governments, departments and agencies and explained the different authorities involved. One important aspect of implementing this emergency preparedness system is educating and mobilizing the residents of the Wind River Indian Reservation, due to cultural awareness factors. The participants attending this presentation learned and were given a better understanding of the challenges in implementing an emergency response system within an Indian reservation and with other governmental agencies. Allison concluded his presentation by giving an Honor Song for participants.

Table Top Discussions were held at the end of each day during which a number of topics were discussed. These were facilitated by those who made presentations during that day. Some of the topics discussed at different tables included: Planning for Pandemic Flu; Mental Health and First Responder Roles in planning for terrorist actions; Responding to Victims of Wildfires; CISM in Rural Communities; Preparing Communities for Returning Military and their Families; Response, Resiliency, Recovery and Follow-up to critical incidents; Certification and Training for CISM Responders; Mental Health Professionals and Emergency Management; Pre-disaster Strategic Planning; Role of Culture and Cultural Sensitivity in Disaster Responses; Hurricanes and other Natural Disasters; Global Warming and How to Prepare for it .

Attendees also enjoyed evening activities. The Casper Tourism Board, thanks to Carol Chapin and her wonderful staff, provided us with a great reception with food and visits and presentations from historical figures in Casper history. A big thank-you is also given for the attendance and personal welcome from the Mayor of Casper, The Honorable Renee R. Burgess.

A dinner on Day 3, Friday was also enjoyed by delegates at the Casper Petroleum Club. All in attendance relaxed and had a great time.

In February, 2007 the full proceedings of the conference with articles by the presenters will be available in book format. We have arranged with Loving Healing Press to have this book printed. It will be marketed through a number of sites, including Amazon.com. Costs to Institute members and WYO CISM NET Teams will be at a special price. Watch for details in the Newsletter.

Wyoming CISM Team Updates and Team Development

Rock Springs – Sweetwater ASSIST CISM Team: The Sweetwater ASSIST CISM Team has completed their Network Information and Registration within the State. This includes their narrative description and protocols for their Critical Incident Program. This document is a valuable asset and a good example for other teams within the state. For those who are still struggling with how to accomplish this process, this is a good model for teams within Wyoming. If you are working on your team's registration and Program description and would like to have a copy to use as an example, please contact: George Doherty, Rocky Mountain Region Disaster Mental Health Institute, Box 786, Laramie, WY 82073-0786 or call 307-399-4818 to request a copy. The Sweetwater ASSIST CISM Team is sponsored by the Rock Springs Police Department.

Sgt Randy Hanson has been the coordinator of the local team since its inception in January, 2004. They are currently a multi-jurisdictional team with about 20 members representing nine different agencies. The goals of the team include: Providing the support necessary to ensure optimal functioning of Sweetwater County's emergency responders and their primary support systems; Promote job retention capabilities for emergency responders and reduce turn-over rates; Conduct pre-incident educational programs to acquaint emergency workers with means of coping with critical incidents. Congratulations to the Sweetwater ASSIST CISM Team for their ongoing service.

Gillette – Stuff from the Campbell County CISM Team: The Campbell County CISM Team has recently approved their 5th Counselor on the Team and expect to approve an additional member who is a retired law enforcement officer. The team is continuing pursuit of sponsorship through Campbell County Memorial Hospital and the outlook is positive. The Team celebrated their first annual Christmas Appreciation Dinner recently. Bob Rudichar, Team Coordinator, conducted his first Pastoral Crisis Intervention Workshop in Casper at the Annual Rocky Mountain Region National Disaster Mental Health Conference. Bob is on the Institute Faculty and is an ICISF Certified Trained Trainer for the Pastoral Crisis Intervention course. The Team Financial Coordinator is working on the development of a team library. Additionally, the team is working on a sub-group within their team to take care of on-going "maintenance" issues regarding crisis intervention in various departments of the hospital. The intent is to provide 3-4 interventions for several departments per year. Not only will this meet a perpetual need for stress release among employees, but it will also provide a "proving ground" and training opportunity for various team members.

UPCOMING CISM TRAININGS

The Rocky Mountain Region Disaster Mental Health Institute will be offering CISM Trainings in the Spring and early Summer at different sites around the state again this year. The exact courses, locations and dates will be available in January. Courses we are looking at providing include *CISM: Group Crisis Intervention*; *CISM: Advanced Group Crisis Intervention*; *CISM: Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention*; *CISM in Healthcare*

Settings; Strategic Response to Crisis. We are also looking at providing at least one or two of the ICISF specialty courses pending further funding beyond that currently available. *Treatment of Complex PTSD; Stress Management for the Trauma Provider; TEAM: Team Evolution and Management; Psychotraumatology For Clinicians; and Responding to School Crises: A Multi-Component Crisis Intervention Approach* are among those under consideration. The Institute is attempting to provide the core courses and specialty courses for certifications in various aspects of CISM. To check for times and locations, etc. for upcoming trainings, watch for announcements on the opening page of the Rocky Mountain Region Disaster Mental Health Newsletter at: <http://www.rmrinstitute.org> or call: 307-399-4818 after January 15, 2007. Announcements will also be made in the WYO CISM NET Newsletter in the next issue.

CURRENT CISM TEAMS IN WYOMING

The following Teams are organized and available for responses within the state:

- **Sweetwater ASSIST CISM Team** – Registered Team
Peer Coordinator: Sgt Randy Hanson, Rock Springs Police Department
Mental Health Coordinator: Michael Bauer, S.W. Counseling
CONTACT: Phone – 307 – 352-1575
Email – randy_hanson@rswy.net
- **Fremont County CISM Team**
Peer Coordinator: Sgt Jerry Evagelatos, Sheriff's Department
Mental Health Coordinator: Alice Nichol, Central Wyoming Community College
CONTACT: Phone – 307- 857-3604 Email – jerryev@trib.com
- **Snowy Range CISM Team** National Registered Team
Peer Coordinator: Sgt Dave Smith, Laramie Police Department
Mental Health Coordinator: George W. Doherty, Rocky Mountain Region Disaster Mental Health Institute
CONTACT: Phone – 800-821-3711 Email – rockymountain@mail2emergency.com
- **Campbell County CISM Team**
Coordinator: Bob Rudichar
Peer Coordinator: Charlie Messenheimer
Mental Health Coordinator: Dale Oedekoven
CONTACT: 307-685-1067 (Press 8 at opening message)

The following are teams that are in the beginning stages of development and organization:

- **CASPER CISM**
Current CONTACT: Lt. Stewart Anderson and Theresa Simpson
Phone: 307-235-9205
- **CHEYENNE CISM**
Current CONTACT: Sandra Jacquez, Tina Henderson and Dori Clark
Administrative Coordinators Phone: 307-637-6507

Additional Teams are also being considered in Evanston and Sheridan.

There is a form that we are asking each team to complete in order to be registered within the state. If you already have this form, please complete and mail back to the Institute (Box 786, Laramie, WY 82073-0786) as soon as possible. If you do not have the form or need one, please contact us **(307-399-4818)**. It is important to have each team registered in order to provide accurate and timely information to potential users statewide.

BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKAH, HAPPY NEW YEAR AND A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON. THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR SERVICE DURING THE PAST YEAR.