

August 2022

Dear Organizational and School Leaders,

When critical incidents or crisis events occur in a school, quick access to effective resources that minimize the traumatic impact on our students and staff is essential. At the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) – Office of School Safety (OSS) we prioritize the need for prompt, efficient, evidence-based crisis interventions to promote recovery after a crisis event.

We are writing today to make you aware of a new free resource that all schools can access if they experience a traumatic event. We have developed 12 regionally based critical Incident response teams across Wisconsin. The teams are comprised of multidisciplinary volunteers trained in crisis response and intervention.

If a critical incident occurs within a school community, a regional crisis team is available to work with the school-based team to supplement the resources and the support networks that are already in place. The response can vary from a phone consultation with a school district to partial and/or full on-site deployment of Critical Incident Response Team members with crisis intervention expertise. We will work with the impacted school to learn the needs of the educational community, and provide a right sized, solutions-oriented approach to crisis response and recovery that “do no harm”.

If your school has been impacted by a critical incident and there is a need for additional resources within your school community, you can contact us in two ways:

- A toll-free phone number: 1-800-MY-SUSO-1 (1-800-697-8761)
- Email address: [schoolsafety@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:schoolsafety@doj.state.wi.us)