



Critical Incident Response Service

July 17, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

The Cuyahoga County Suicide Postvention Team was brought to my attention in early 2015. As a law enforcement officer I am always looking for new resources to help the people I serve. I have found the Team to be a wealth of knowledge and experience. I asked team member Peter Bliss to speak to the Westshore Critical Incident Response Service to educate them of the resources the Postvention Team had at their disposal. One of the team's offerings was training on the causes of and response to incidents involving suicide.

The Postvention Team subsequently provided free training to the Westshore C.I.R.S. and the Westshore Enforcement Bureau's Hostage Negotiation Unit. The class was made up of veteran first responders and support staff. Each and every one had been affected either professionally or personally by suicide. After the training the overwhelming response was positive. The attendees thought it brought a new prospective to suicide and its aftermath. We all took away something that would help in our day to day duties whether it was suicide prevention or response to suicide.

I believe the training would be beneficial to all public safety first responders and would recommend it to those considering having the Postvention Team speak to their personnel

Respectfully,

Paul Shepard

President