Emerald Coast Crisis Stress Team (ECCST)

Mission Protocol

1. Team Make Up – Every ECCST team will be made up of non-clinical and clinical team members. Non-clinical team is an individual of any professional background that has completed the required team courses, i.e., ICS courses; CISM; FCRT; ECCST; etc. A clinical team member is a licensed health professional in psychiatry, psychology, social work, mental health counseling or psychiatric nursing that has completed the required team courses. Deployed ECCST team will have both a Team Lead and Clinical Lead. They can be the same person.
2. A mission report form will be carried and filled out by the Team Leader and Clinical Team Lead. Both will be incorporated into one report form at the end of each day or mission, which ever applies. This includes contact information for follow on contact.
3. Each mission report form will be reviewed by the Director and Deputy Director prior to being made an official part of the ECCST record.
4. Team members are expected to provide input to the team lead and the clinical team lead for their reports. This should be part of the team “hot wash” at the conclusion of the mission day or mission.
5. All team members are responsible for their own care, buddy care and the care of others. Any concerns about care, need to be addressed either on a one to one basis with the team chain of command or in a team group session. **See something, say something.**
6. Mission Operations – Non CISM – A non CISM event or mission may include or be the result of any type of critical incident not requiring a CISM response. It may include psychological first aid, support, listening or referral/education. It may include a behavioral health assessment, someone is stressed, is asking for help, is having difficulty on the job, etc. And it may include a specialty behavioral health intervention and/or referred for specific treatment options for example. Individual being supported indicates suicidal/homicidal thoughts, plans, etc. Additionally, non CISM events may include K-9 Team Support, however, under certain circumstances CISM could be an option. This action would be a Clinical Team Lead decision in consultation with the Team Veterinarian consultant.
7. Mission Operations – CISM - Critical Incident Stress Management. A CISM request is made by the requesting organization or by the Clinical Team Lead upon arriving at the incident site. CISM will only be undertaken if a CISM trained individual is available. Preference is for two CISM trained ECCST members but if one is a non CISM trained but Florida Crisis Response Team trained member may be in attendance/OJT when clinical lead is on of the CISM members present. A CISM event requires at least two ECCST members present. One must be CISM trained. Our team will always do a defusing first and if a second CISM is requested by the same group, the second meeting is the debriefing. Optional CISM configuration is a circle. ECCST members will sit opposite of each other. One member watches the group as the other ECCST member speaks. During the initial CISM, participants do not have to speak but we will ask that they stay until the end. Only individuals involved in the critical incident should be allowed in the CISM event. Those not actually involved or involved from afar can get their own CISM is do requested. The CISM Team can meet others in a one on one session or more generic group session. Control of the CISM session, asking for people not part of the critical event to leave etc., is the responsibility of the lead CISM team member.
8. Mission Standards: While each mission, deployment is different, our protocol should be consistent with some flexibility for unique events but typically a proven approach to the best care possible from trained professional volunteers with the state-of-the-art skills.
9. Confidentiality – As a professional team, the confidentiality of team members and the First Responders we see is essential. We are a crisis team. Observations made during a mission that may require action should be brought to the attention of the Clinical Team Lead immediately. Disregard of confidentiality is not acceptable for the membership on the ECCST.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Team Member