

# Peninsulas Critical Incident Stress Management Team Minutes

March 8, 2004

## **Members Present:**

Jeff Hammack	John Gleason
Denise Hammond	Ralph Worley
Ellen Vest	Barbara Vest
Hershel Kreis	Jane Senyk
Don Swope	Jim Murphy

Ellen Vest opened the meeting at 7:25 p.m. The membership committee had met prior to the opening with two prospective members.

Minutes of the previous meeting were distributed to everyone. John moved they be accepted. The motion was seconded and passed.

## **Team Activity Reports:**

- Ellen showed a notebook she has assembled containing all the team activity reports she has since 1994. Anyone having copies of reports that can be added should get them to her.
- Team members reported on the 4 debriefings and 2 defusings that have occurred since the last meeting.

## **State Committee Report:**

- John shared that the EMS Advisory Board has voted to support the proposed CISM wording into the Code of Virginia. They plan to submit the proposal next year.
- Copies of the proposed wording and a position paper were distributed. A discussion generated around the wording proposed for the CISM inclusion into the Code of Virginia. After much discussion it was decided that Ellen should send the following suggestions to the state committee, with John and/or Ellen discussing them further at the next state committee meeting (strike throughs indicate deletions and bold italicized words indicate additions):

The Virginia Department of Health – Office of EMS shall administer the Virginia Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) program. The purpose of this program includes, but is not limited to, responding to and providing critical incident support services, ~~crisis intervention and peer support for emergency service organizations, department and emergency medical service~~ **emergency services/public safety** personnel ~~which~~ **who** have experienced a critical incident (injury or death of a child, co-worker, job related incident, terrorism or other large-scale **critical** events, etc.). The Virginia Office of EMS will provide oversight for the state **recognized** CISM teams (team members include mental health professionals and emergency service/**public safety** peers) and will determine and provide the appropriate CISM training to Virginia's emergency service/**public safety** personnel.

- John also stated that the state committee is putting together resources to help with deployment to incidents outside of the state.
- Posters have been developed and are available to teams in two different sizes.
- Information on the 2004 Annual CISM Training (June 2-5) in Virginia Beach was distributed to all present.
- The Fall CISM Conference will be held in Roanoke on Oct. 15-17, 2004.

Refreshments, provided by PEMS, were enjoyed by all.

#### **Other Business:**

- Mileage reimbursement forms were distributed to all present. These can be used for reimbursement of mileage when traveling to and from a debriefing. The forms are also available on-line.
- A copy of a letter, which is to be sent to all regional agencies from Ralph, was distributed. This will be sent along with the new poster with PEMS CISM contact information.
- A new Team Member notebook was given to all present.

#### **New Applicants:**

- Jeff reported that the committee had met with *two Applicants* prior to the meeting. The committee recommended denying both applicants. It was felt that *Applicant A* should be encouraged to reapply in a couple of years when she had more peer experience and greater maturity, and that *Applicant B* should be encouraged to contact the crisis team for her school division and offer her assistance to them. *Applicant B* is a school nurse with no EMS background or involvement. Those present agreed with the committee recommendations. Denise is to call *Applicant A* and Jane is to call *Applicant B* to encourage them in these recommendations. Additionally, Jeff will write the official letter to deny membership. He will

send the letter to Ellen to be placed on official letterhead, and she will forward it to Ralph for final approval and signature.

- There are still 2 more applicants, who could not make it tonight, that need interviewing. Jeff and Barbara are to call Greg Flemming to make arrangements for these interviews.
- Ellen mentioned that Pam Weaver has not been active for over 2 years. Consensus of those present is that she should be dropped from the roles and encouraged to reapply when she would like to reestablish involvement. Ellen is to notify her of this action.

**Training:**

- Barbara Vest did an educational overview of “Controversies in CISM”.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.