

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

SCHOOL CRISIS/GRIEF RESPONSE PLAN

FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

1. The District School Social Worker or Designee will contact Larissa Russell, Interagency Coordinator (IAC), Schuylkill IU29 at (570) 544-9131 ext. 1219 or russl@iu29.org to request crisis response/grief counseling due to a school related tragedy, e.g. unexpected death of a student or staff member. For the purpose of response planning, it will be crucial to have as much lead-time as possible prior to the start of the school day so that an effective response may be coordinated. Cara Tran, Deputy Administrator, and Tara Mercuri, CASSP Coordinator, of the Schuylkill County Mental Health Office will also be informed of the request in order to coordinate further assistance if needed.
2. Upon request of crisis intervention assistance by the School District Designee, the IAC will initiate contact with the Schuylkill County District School Social Workers for volunteers to respond to the school district.
3. The IAC and/or Mental Health Office Representative will continue communication with the School District Designee from the affected school to assess the situation and determine how many responders will be needed at the school location. This may be followed up by an on-site visit to assist with collaboration of crisis response efforts. Responding school social workers are responsible to notify their respective supervisors.
4. Responding school social workers will assist the School District Designee in implementing the school's crisis response plan. Each district has the option of contacting other agencies, neighboring districts and/or their SAP liaison for assistance and additional support.
5. If additional support staff is needed, the IAC and/or Mental Health Office Representative will coordinate efforts with local community services such as; Schuylkill We Help, the Mental Health Office, the Intermediate Unit, Outpatient Providers and DCORT to determine what additional personnel can be assigned to the school or alternate location.
6. The school social workers on site will meet with the School District Designee and crisis response team to debrief and assess what services may be needed, if any, for the following day. The School District Designee will keep the IAC and/or Mental Health Office Representative abreast of the situation. If additional staff is needed for the next school day, please make the request as soon as possible for continuity of care.
7. The School District Designee will complete a School Crisis Response Data Collection Form and submit it to Larissa Russell at russl@iu29.org.