Ohio ASSIST: Aiding Safety Services with Incident Survival Techniques

As of October 6, 2015 there have been 298 mass shootings in the United States and October 6 is the 279th day of 2015.

Source: shootingtracker.com
A reminder of what Ohio ASSIST Is:

- Ohio ASSIST is the next level of post critical incident care for safety service personnel.
- Ohio ASSIST is supportive in nature and is designed to provide our personnel with techniques, strategies and methods of returning to their “new normal.”
- Ohio ASSIST is for the well being of safety service personnel.
- Ohio ASSIST will work with the surrounding states to share resources and personnel to provide post incident after-care to first responders and their families.
- Ohio ASSIST is available to all safety services in Ohio: Law Enforcement, Fire Service, EMS and Corrections.
Ohio ASSIST Program Status

- Working with South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Texas, Georgia, and Kentucky
- ASSIST personnel have travelled to partner states and served as a PCIS peers at their request
- Continue to provide Crisis Awareness Training, including addiction-related issues and post-critical incident training for law enforcement executives, to agencies across Ohio
Ohio ASSIST Program Status

Referrals:
We have been able to assist several Ohio departments in registering safety service personnel to attend PCIS seminars

• At this time, we have had 20+ referrals to PCIS in other states
  • This continues to be an on-going part of the Ohio ASSIST program

We have also been able to make referrals to services within Ohio to agencies who have requested assistance
Ohio ASSIST Program Status

We have had the opportunity to attend a number of law enforcement and fire service meetings, and continue to make ourselves available to any group who would like information regarding Ohio ASSIST and the PCIS program.

We have updated training for the Highway Patrol’s Member Assistance Team (MAT) in cooperation with our partners.

Our MAT is ICISF trained which makes peer support communications legally privileged.

More training will be coming in the future, open to other agencies and our partners from other states.
Ohio ASS/ST Program Status

Ohio ASS/ST has held three very successful Post Critical Incidents Seminars (PCIS)

- Eighty-five first responders and support persons have attended at no charge to their agency
- Two PCIS scheduled for 2018, March and October in Central Ohio

Working with other agencies to bring PCIS to other parts of the state
Ohio ASSIST Program Status

Ohio ASSIST has a core group of trained peers and mental health clinicians with experience in public safety

Continue to enjoy support from OACP, BSSA, EAP, CIT programs, ODR&C, and Fire Service
Ohio ASSIST Program Status

ASSIST provides training, free of charge, for Law Enforcement, Fire/EMS, Corrections and civilian organizations.

Has been very well received by a number of Ohio agencies.
Ohio ASSIST Program Status

Crisis Awareness

➢ This program covers signs, symptoms of a stress reaction, techniques for dealing with traumatic / critical incidents, PTSD and techniques to help others
➢ Can include a discussion on addiction awareness
Ohio ASSIST Program Status

After the Call

➢ This program is designed for command staff or executive leadership
➢ Begins the discussion process for when an agency faces a death, serious injury or other major traumatic event
➢ Not what an agency should do, but encourages the discussion
Ohio ASSIST Web Site

www.dpsohioassist.ohio.gov

• Links to partner agencies
• Registration and Referral forms
• Participant Comments
• Also on LinkedIn and Facebook
FAQ???

- Eligibility for attendance to PCIS will be determined by the safety service employee’s agency
- Payroll/leave status will be determined by the individual agency
- Only cost to agency will be getting the first responder to the training
- Ohio ASS/ST will continue to work with and support the efforts of CIRS/CISM/Peer Support teams across the state
A reminder of what Ohio ASSIST Is Not

- Ohio ASSIST **does not** replace or change anything an agency is currently doing in the area of post-critical incident aftercare
- Ohio ASSIST **is not** a program specific to one agency or area of safety service
- Ohio ASSIST **does not** dictate to any agency how to help its personnel after an incident
Where is the Highway Patrol’s MAT program?

The Division’s MAT has received training to become ICISF trained

- This brought MAT training up to the nationally recognized standard
- Provides limited legislative protection for certain communications between MAT and personnel involved in an incident
Post Critical Incident Seminars

PCIS is:

- Participant Driven
- Peer Facilitated
- Clinician Supported
In Conclusion

PCIS is an ever-evolving and adapting program to meet the changing needs of first responders. With the help and support of our partners, both in and out of state, this valuable program will continue to grow and be able to assist public safety personnel for many years to come.

The support we have already received shows that this program is valuable and needed for the wellbeing of safety service employees and their families.

Ohio ASSIST remains dedicated to all of Ohio’s Safety Service personnel.
We owe it to our personnel to provide them as much training, equipment and support as we can to help protect them from the dangers they face daily. This is just another part of that training and support to help them deal with the calls we send them to every day.
Contact Information

Lieutenant Steven M. Click
614-752-7527 Work
614-989-3330 Cell
sclick@dps.ohio.gov

Pam Walker
614-752-7222 Work
phwalker@dps.ohio.gov
Questions........