

BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT TEAM

The mission of the Behavioral Assessment Team (BAT) at Coastline College is to promote student, faculty and staff success and campus safety by identifying individuals who demonstrate behaviors that may be early warning signs of possible disruptive and/or violent behavior (threat to self-harm or harm to others) and intervene at the earliest point possible.

The focus of BAT is care and concern for students, faculty and/or staff who may be in distress. BAT members determine appropriate resources and implement a coordinated response with the goal of providing assistance to the individual while mitigating risk in an effort to keep the Coastline community healthy and safe. Please refer to the: [Coastline BAT website](#) for additional information on how to identify a person of concern and/or file a report.

BAT Members

The BAT core team is a multidisciplinary team of professionals serving in roles critical to making assessments and recommendations concerning risk to our community. The BAT Team is comprised of the following staff members:

- Dean of Students – Co-Chair
- Director of Student Equity and Title IX
- Public Safety
- Mental Health Therapist

Additional campus community members or “Ad hoc members” will be included as necessary based on the situation being reviewed. The Core Team are the positions brought in to assist with interventions, strategies and resources. The Ad hoc members may be brought in for action, but also may be informed because they have a “need to know” to manage official College business.

Example of “Ad hoc” members depending on the case includes:

- Counseling
- Academic Deans
- DSPP (Special Programs and Services for Disabled)
- Distance Learning
- EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services)
- Military
- President’s Office
- Human Resources

BAT Functions

The BAT functions are as follows:

1. Develop, maintain and review formal protocol and practice for the work of the team.
2. Develop a culture of reporting on campus, communicating our core message frequently with students and employees.
3. Gather information and assess situations involving students, faculty and/or staff who display concerning and/or disruptive behaviors.
4. Evaluate, recommend or implement appropriate intervention strategies when needed.
5. Monitor ongoing behaviors of students who have displayed concerning and/or disruptive behaviors.
6. Track all concerns using the online management software system, Maxient.
7. Connect students, faculty, and staff to campus and community resources.

Operating Assumptions

1. In most cases, a student displaying concerning behaviors is willing to work with college officials to obtain the assistance necessary to complete their educational program. When a student or employee is in distress, feeling that they have support for resolving the concern may serve as crisis prevention and provide a positive learning environment.
2. Students, faculty, and staff will demonstrate a reasonable concern for their own welfare and the welfare of others. This is particularly true in the areas of self-harm and harm to others. Students, faculty, and staff will (immediately) report disturbing and/or threatening behavior.
3. In the event that the college is presented with a credible report that a student, faculty and/or staff has harmed themselves or others, has a medical concern, or is disruptive within the college learning/working environment, the student, faculty, and/or staff may be encouraged to attend evaluations and trainings.
4. The BAT will use fact-based information to evaluate threats, actions, and/or conduct that may lead to targeted violence and determine situational-specific response action plans.
5. The BAT will use Threat Assessment Tools and Inventories to determine the level of threat in specific cases.
6. BAT members will participate annually in opportunities for training and professional development to keep current on best practices.
7. The BAT will utilize the range of campus and community support services for students, faculty, and/or staff.
8. Public Safety may coordinate with local law enforcement to conduct threat assessment training for on or off-campus situations.
9. The BAT was designed based on national recommendations for best practices in the field.
10. The BAT will facilitate or provide threat assessment training for ad hoc members as needed.

The BAT will make recommendations about if and how to respond to students or other individuals who are reported to demonstrate disruptive and/or troubling behaviors. The scope includes a spectrum of decisions between noting the concern, requiring threat assessment interviews, completing various intervention strategies to remove the student or other individuals from campus, if necessary, utilizing the appropriate college/district protocol.

Meetings

The BAT will meet at least every two weeks to address new issues or updates regarding reported behaviors of a non-immediate concern. If an incoming report involves some aspect of immediate concern, a Core Team meeting will be called.

Concerning Behaviors

A “red flag” or concerning behavior is a questionable, suspicious and/or inappropriate behavior that may be presented through appearance, speech, written words, or specific actions.

Examples of concerning behaviors may include, but are not limited to:

- Anger Outburst
- Bizarre/Disjointed Thoughts/Behaviors
- Depression/Persistent Sadness
- Deteriorating Work or Performance
- Disturbing Written Material
- Extreme Mood Swings
- Extreme Withdrawal
- Homicidal Ideations
- Preoccupations with Bombs/Explosives
- Preoccupations with Weapons
- Self-Injurious Behavior
- Significant Changes in Appearance
- Significant Changes in Hygiene
- Suicidal Ideations
- Suicide Attempt
- Threat to Others
- Unprovoked Hostility

Reporting Process

Reports/concerns about students, faculty, staff and/or third party can be submitted in a number of ways (listed below in the preferred order of reporting, with the top option being most preferred):

1. The on-line reporting form, [The Coastline College Incident Reporting Form](#) which is linked through various website locations (e.g., Behavioral Assessment Team, Campus Safety, Student Services) is the most effective reporting method. While it is helpful to have the name of the reporter if follow-up is necessary, reports may be submitted anonymously.
2. Public Safety Incident Report – Report in person to a Public Safety Officer.
3. Reports may also be made in person, by phone, or via email to any member of the team.

BAT Evaluation

While there is no single set of warning signs that reliably predicts individual behavior or campus violence, the evaluation process looks for behavioral evidence that an individual is planning or preparing to act out inappropriately or carry out some type of threat. Evaluation is designed to both distinguish between threatening and non-threatening cases in order to ensure the safety of the individual of concern and any others potentially involved to resolve the conditions that initiated the inappropriate behavior.

Evaluation assists in early identification of situations that may pose a threat to others, creates a baseline of information against which to assess future behavior, and provides a means for implementing interventions to increase the likelihood of a positive and safe resolution.

1. Once a report has been submitted to the BAT, the Core BAT members will utilize the National Association of Behavioral Assessment Team Association (NaBITA) Threat Assessment Tool to initially assess whether or not there is an immediate risk/reason for concern. If so, the team will be called to meet immediately. If not, the case will be reviewed and appropriate action will be taken.
2. The assessment process may include any of the following data gathering processes:
 - Interviews with all available parties with information about the situation
 - Interviews with the person alleged to have displayed inappropriate/concerning behavior
 - Assessment by a mental health therapist
 - Implementation of threat assessment tools
 - Interview with any identified potential targets of inappropriate/concerning behavior
 - Review of the following for the person of concern: academic record, disciplinary and/or employment history as it relates to Coastline
 - Legal/criminal background check

Feedback to the Reporting Party

In accordance with Family Education Rights for Privacy Act (FERPA) and other laws addressing confidentiality, the team will report back to the reporting party when appropriate with pertinent information about our findings and recommendations.

CONTACTS

BAT Website: [Coastline BAT website](#)

Employee Report Link: [The Coastline College Incident Reporting Form](#)

Local Police Departments:

City of Fountain Valley Police Department

Emergency 911
Address: 10200 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708
Front Desk Phone: 714-593-4485
Dispatch Phone: 714-593-4483

City of Costa Mesa Police Department

Emergency 911
Address: 99 Fair Dr, Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Phone: 714-754-5113

City of Garden Grove Police Department

Emergency 911
Address: 11301 Acacia Pkwy, Garden Grove, CA 92840
Desk Phone 714-741-5704

City of Newport Beach Police Department

Emergency 911
Address: 70 Santa Barbara Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660
Front Desk: 949-644-3681
Dispatch: 949-644-3717
Records: 949-644-3682

City of Westminster Police Department

Emergency 911
Address: 8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CA 92683
Phone: 714-898-3315

Public Safety Office, Fountain Valley

Phone: 714-241-6360

Public Safety Duty Phones:

Garden Grove Center 714-981-2237
Le-Jao Center 714-981-2245
Newport Beach Center 714-981-2235

Mental Health Services

Phone: 714-241-6005

BAT Team Core Member Contact Information:

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Claudia Vernon

Mental Health Therapist

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Ray Stowell

Public Safety

Office: College Center, Fountain Valley

714-241-6120

References

National Behavioral Intervention Team Association, NaBITA (2009). Available at www.nabita.org.

National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, NCHERM (2008). Threat Assessment Model. Available at www.ncherp.org.