

# GRANT WOOD AEA CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Grant Wood AEA CISM team members include social workers, school psychologists, clergy members, teachers, counselors, administrators, and community volunteers. We serve 32 school districts and offer school-based, timely support when critical events impact a school.

## HOW THE TEAM PROVIDES SUPPORT:



- Strategic planning
- On-site team support
- Group interventions
- Defusings and debriefing after an event
- Staff training
- Individual interventions for staff and students
- Follow-up and referral

## TO REQUEST SUPPORT FROM THE GWAEA CISM TEAM:

### DURING SCHOOL HOURS

- School leaders may call Nicole Cerio at 319-399-6757 or email [ncerio@gwaea.org](mailto:ncerio@gwaea.org) or call your GWAEA regional administrator.
- Indicate that the school has experienced a critical incident and request to speak to a team coordinator for the Grant Wood AEA CISM team.
- The switchboard operator will arrange for an on-call member of the CISM team to contact the school leader as soon as possible.

### AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

- District staff can contact GWAEA regional administrators

## BECOME A MEMBER OF THE GWAEA CISM TEAM

Active membership requires a three-day course and a personal commitment to ongoing skill enhancement and training. A leadership committee reviews applications for membership to the Grant Wood AEA CISM team.

For information about the Grant Wood AEA Critical Incident Stress Management team, contact:

### **Amanda Osborn/Sharon Clark**

CISM team coordinators

Grant Wood Area Education Agency

4401 Sixth St. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404

319-399-6700

## MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Grant Wood AEA Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team is to support GWAEA schools in coping with critical incidents by providing trained, local community response teams.

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR RESPONDING TO A CRITICAL INCIDENT:

- Be careful not to overload people with information. Let their questions be your guide.
- Listen to the students and staff. Let them talk about their thoughts and fears, and ask their own questions.
- Be aware that others' reactions may be very different from your own.
- Provide empathy for feelings, which may cover a considerable range.
- Identify the support people available to talk with students and staff.
- Be fairly consistent with classroom routine following a critical incident while making allowances for individual needs.
- Visit [gwaea.org/CISM](http://gwaea.org/CISM) for additional resources and information to help your students and staff.

[www.gwaea.org/cism](http://www.gwaea.org/cism)

