

North Carolina State University Approach to Safety January 29, 2009

From: Tina Maria Nelson, Risk Assessment Case Manager

Following the Virginia Tech shooting, The University of North Carolina Campus Safety Task Force assessed current practices among the different university systems and made recommendations in the report to the President in November 2007 with their final report. All campuses were tasked to have in place a trained threat assessment team that at a minimum would have representatives from the Counseling Center, Campus Police, Office of Student Conduct, Housing, etc. Due to the complexities in school violence and work place violence, North Carolina State University decided to have a Risk Assessment Case Manager to assist in the management of the threat assessment team and incorporate Human Resources and Employee Relations when there are concerns regarding employees. Working as a team with other campus experts is imperative. We have the Threat Assessment Team that evaluates situations involving moderate to high risk. The team works to link information concerning an individual or situation. An integral part of the team is to ensure that there is continuing collaboration among our different university systems and that follow up is maintained with students or employees exhibiting concerning behavior.

The Risk Assessment Case Manager is Tina Maria Nelson, who is a licensed clinical social worker. Her primary responsibility is to assess threat and risk in the campus community and ensure there is proper intervention and response. The Risk Assessment Case Manager evaluates both student and staff situations involving potential violence (i.e. suicide risk, workplace violence). It is imperative when staff or faculty has concern regarding a student or staff member that they consult with the Risk Assessment Case Manager. Whether you feel it's a minor issue, it's best to address early before the situation escalates. To understand your role and procedures to follow see Campus/Workplace Violence Prevention and Management Policy (PRR 04.05.2).

There is specific training that can be provided at staff meetings, groups, and etc. to meet their specific needs. Currently, Campus Police provides a showing and dialogue on the "Active Shooter" videos and a short briefing at newcomers to address violence on the university campus. Recently, the Office of Student Conduct, Campus Police and the Risk Assessment Case Manager provided training on classroom management, examining the differences between a disruptive student, distressed student and a situation that is of imminent danger.

Collaboration is the key to an effective program so there continues to be open dialogue with our local helping agencies both on campus and in the local community to ensure that follow up continues to be seamless and that our campus community is provided with exceptional service while we maintain the safety of our campus. For additional information or questions, please call 513-2442.