



Crisis Intervention Service

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March 17, 2020

Dear Community Partners and Friends,

We've all been experiencing a plethora of information regarding the COVID-19 situation here in Iowa, in our country and across the globe. Here at Crisis Intervention Service (CIS) we know that violence takes no break even at times like these and in fact, families will experience an elevated level of stress due to absences from work, school closings and the realities of this illness. We have carefully considered the advisories coming out of the CDC, the Iowa Department of Health and other partners, and for that reason, CIS is closing its physical office beginning Tuesday, March 17 until further notice, dialing back our physical presence in many spaces and working remotely.

Here's what will continue from our end:

- CIS staff will be working each day. Though we will be working from our homes, we will be available during normal working hours – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. –conducting virtual meetings and the like. Our crisis lines will be forwarded to the statewide helpline. If you need to connect with a staff person directly, the quickest method will be e-mail.
- We will continue to provide crisis services and ongoing support to individual, families and communities impacted by violence.

Here's what may look different:

- Meetings may be cancelled, rescheduled for a later date or move from in-person to virtual. We will let you know as the meetings come up.
- Any previously schedule trainings will be postponed or provided virtually.
- Although it seems like many of our partners are also moving meetings to virtual platforms, for those who are not, we will evaluate the risk for exposure and will determine if we should attend in person or ask to participate using technology.

Here at CIS we are taking COVID-19 seriously and recognizing that we are members of a community filled with people who may be at a significantly higher risk than the average Iowan.

We believe we can meet the needs of our constituents while simultaneously minimizing the risk to our staff and to all with whom we come in contact. By centering the most vulnerable among us, we feel that we are taking an active role in preventing the spread of this disease.

We also recognize the incredible privilege that comes with this action and we are working actively to use our voice to support Iowans who have no paid time off, who are looking at the prospect of lost wages, who are vulnerable and have few resources. We welcome anyone who wants to be in community with us.

Take care,

Mary J. Ingham
Executive Director