

Crisis Protocols

During the school day:

- MCPS staff are provided guidelines for managing crisis situations and have been instructed to follow MCPS procedures. LTL staff do not participate in the physical containment or restraint of a student, however may be consulted by school staff during a crisis. If a safety concern related to a student's behavior occurs during a LTL activity (e.g. in a therapy session or a group) on school grounds during the school day, the the LTL staff member will call for MCPS assistance or bring the student to the principal's office (or designated area) where appropriate school staff can follow standard MCPS protocol.
 - If for any reason the school's determination of follow-through with the incident leaves LTL/agency staff concerned about the safety of the child/family, in consultation with their agency supervisor, the LTL staff person may also follow agency protocols regarding their knowledge of and/or concern about the child/family (i.e. – contact the police, Child Welfare, the Crisis Center, etc.)

After school hours (within the LTL office) or off-site (off school grounds):

If a child who is being seen by an LTL staff member goes into crisis after school hours while in the care of the LTL staff member, the staff member should follow the protocol established by their employing agency. If approved by their employing agency, independently licensed mental health staff have the option to complete an emergency evaluation petition (EEP) and have the child or family sent directly to the hospital for emergency evaluation/admission.

When there is a death or a serious incident or accident in the school or community:

- MCPS staff are instructed to follow MCPS procedures in such situations.
- LTL staff members should be invited to participate on a crisis support team, if one is convened. For example, in the past this has included LTL Child/Family Therapists teaming with the School Counselors to talk with students following a death in the community, coordinated efforts by school and LTL staff organizing clothing or food donations for a family/community in need after a fire, etc. In such situations, LTL staff members should communicate closely with school staff to coordinate all crisis response or relief efforts.

When there is an emergency/crisis situation that may be the result of a terrorist act, shooting or accident in the community:

- Each year schools update their emergency/crisis plans. There is an on-site emergency team (OSET) composed of school administrators and staff who receive basic and enhanced levels of emergency/crisis preparedness training. LTL staff may be invited to be part of a school's OSET team.

For more information about MCPS emergency preparedness procedures, please see:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/preparedness/>