For an individual or a community, an event may be considered a psychological emergency when people feel overwhelmed and unable to function effectively in dealing with a problem using their own resources. At times, a psychological emergency may entail a person who indicates either verbally and/or behaviorally that he/she is unable to ensure the personal safety of self or of others; this may include incidents of suicidal or homicidal threat or gesture, psychotic behavior, emotional trauma, or other acting out behavior.

Since any campus community member may be the first campus person contacted directly by a person in crisis, the following outline is meant to assist in understanding possible steps to dealing with the crisis. The procedures listed below should be modified to fit each situation and the abilities/responsibilities of the person or office providing the assistance.

Psychological/Mental Health Crisis: Is There an Imminent Risk of Harm?

YES

Imminent Risk of Harm to Self or Others – Call 911

Safety-Call Police
Especially if need for involuntary transport to local ER

Arrange Transport to Mercy ER for further assessment
If at all possible:
1. Get signed release from student for hospital to follow up with appropriate campus offices (Ex: Housing, Counseling services, Office of Student Life) about discharge plans
2. If needed, contact Counseling Services for consultation
   Daytime: 532-6927
   After-hours: 532-0777

Notify Office of Student Life (OSL) 532-6432
- Help with contacts: Family, Professors, Friends, etc.
- Help with community reactions

OSL may be notified of discharge plans for follow-up needed and be the coordinating point

Consult with OSL 532-6432
- Help with contacts: family, professors, friends, etc.
- Help with community adjustment or reactions to incident

NO

Emotional/Behavioral Distress but Not Life Threatening

Consult with Counseling Services
Daytime: 532-6927 or After-hours: 532-0777
-Brief problem solving
-Follow up plans with appointment at Counseling Services or community resources.
If at all possible, get signed release for coordination when needed