

## **Bystander Accountability**

*What is a bystander?*

A person present but not directly involved in an event, who has the capacity for moral decisions and is therefore responsible for rational thought and action.

*Why should bystanders be accountable?*

In the past, people were comfortable in a passive role, only being responsible for themselves. The bystander approach acknowledges the fact that we are all interdependent and can all have a positive impact on each other.

If we keep our eyes open to potentially dangerous situations, we can step in before something bad happens. As people feel empowered to become “active” bystanders, it will, in turn empower others surrounding them.

The goal of this program is engaging members of our campus community to realize its true potential to influence others, and in many cases, save lives. As this culture shift begins, passivity will no longer be the norm and will no longer be to sit back with content, but rather to jump at the chance to act.

### **5 Steps to Accountability:**

- 1) Notice the event.
- 2) Recognize it as a risky situation.
- 3) Take responsibility for helping in the situation.
- 4) Have the skills necessary to intervene.
- 5) Take Action!

### **Intervening in Any Situation**

- Gather details about the situation.
- Ask for help from other bystanders or friends.
- Be sensitive and understanding.
- Intervene early and in a safe manner.
- Consider multiple options.
- Don't be afraid to call for help! (Resident Assistants, Assistant Resident Coordinators, Resident Coordinators, CARE advocates at 910-962-CARE or 910-512-4821 for after hours emergencies, local police at 911)

### **Non-emergency Intervention**

- Don't make assumptions about the people involved or the situation.
- Keep your eyes open for red flags.
- Set a goal or a plan.
- In conversations, keep in mind that it is about mutual respect.

## **Emergency Intervention**

- Try to keep everyone calm.
- Know your exit strategies.
  - Understand that situations can escalate quickly.
- Be clear and concise when asking for help.
- Keep yourself and others safe.
- Tell whoever involved that you are committed to helping them.
- Encourage value-based decisions.

## **Why don't people intervene?**

Attention: People don't notice what's going on around them.

Interpretation: People don't interpret the event as an emergency or as a serious problem.

Fear: People are afraid of what others will think if they do intervene.

Irresponsibility: People think someone else will help the person.

Skills: People don't know how to intervene.

Blame: People blame the person for getting him/herself into the bad situation.

Avoidance: People assume it is none of their business.

## ***The Five-Point Formula of Intervention***

Adapted from University of Massachusetts, Amherst Health Services,  
Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program, and The BACCHUS Network.

### **I Care**

Let the person know you care about him/her, and because of the significance of your relationship, you need to discuss something very important. Both starting and ending the discussion with an emphasis on your genuine concern, caring and respect sandwiches the difficult feedback you're giving between two strong positives. Choose words you are comfortable with that fit your style.

### **I See**

Report and review the actual events with your friend, as you perceive them. Remember, you are evaluating the behavior, not the person. Try to limit your statements to observable, irrefutable facts. The more you have the better.

### **I Feel**

Tell the person your own feelings using "I-statements" to reveal your feelings. I-statements begin with the word "I" and can be used when you wish to be assertive, but don't want to put your listener on the defense. You can use I-statements to take "ownership" of your feelings, rather than making an impression that they were caused by your listener.

### **I Want**

Tell the person what you would like to see happen.

### **I Will**

Specify what you will or will not do. Only set ultimatums if you can, and will, stick to them.

## **Bystander Accountability Information**

Bringing in the Bystander (University of New Hampshire)

<http://www.unh.edu/preventioninnovations/index.cfm?ID=BCC7DE31-CE05-901F-0EC95DF7AB5B31F1>

Step Up Program (University of Arizona)

<http://www.stepupprogram.org/>

Responsibility Project (Liberty Mutual)

<http://www.responsibilityproject.com/>

Violence Intervention & Prevention Center (University of Kentucky)

[http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/VIPCenter/learn\\_pbpv.html](http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/VIPCenter/learn_pbpv.html)

Sexual Assault Resources & Education (William & Mary)

<http://web.wm.edu/sexualassault/swf/playbook/playbook.html>

## **Important Numbers**

*CARE*: (910) 962-CARE or (910) 512-4821 for after hours emergencies

<http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/care/>

*UNCW Police Department dispatcher* at (910) 962-2222

<http://uncw.edu/ba/police/>

*Counseling Center* (910) 962-3746

<http://uncw.edu/stuaff/counseling/>

*Office of the Dean of Students* (910) 962-3119

<http://www.uncw.edu/stuaff/odos/>

*New Hanover Regional Medical Center* at (910) 815-5002

<http://www.nhrmc.org/>

*Cape Fear Memorial Hospital* at (910) 910-452-8100

<http://www.nhrmc.org/body.cfm?id=26>

*Any Emergency*- 911