

Helping Students At-Risk for Suicide

Assessment, Intervention, and Follow-up for School-Based Practitioners

Presented by: Pat Breux, Dr. Mitch Samet, Dr. Amanda Nickerson, & Gary Schaffer

Coser 525

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December 6, 2018
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Description:

- Within and across school districts, practices vary widely in managing students at risk for suicide. At one end of the spectrum, some schools require that police officers assess any student threatening suicide and subsequently escort the child to a regional hospital if they are deemed to be a “lethal threat” to themselves. At the other end of the spectrum, school psychologists complete a risk assessment, provide brief intervention, and develop a safety plan for a child at-risk for suicide. Such variability within and across school districts, and even among school-based mental health care practitioners, leaves them susceptible to role confusion and lacking confidence in how to properly address a student who is suicidal. **This full day professional development workshop is designed to improve skills, processes, and protocol for helping students at risk for suicide through:**
 1. Equipping educators with tools, knowledge, and skills to assist students having thoughts of suicide or engaging in suicidal behavior
 2. Understanding the necessity of pre-planning and standardized procedures for safety planning
 3. Identifying the importance of collaboration and shared decision making between school mental health professionals, administrators, community providers, and the student and his or her family in managing students at risk for suicide
 4. Viewing an example of documenting risk of suicide and safety planning
 5. Being prepared to develop and implement standardized procedures in their schools/district that reflect best practice for helping students at risk

Who should attend?

- School psychologists, school counselors, social workers, school administrators, and community providers who work in and with school districts

Presentation Location:

Cattaraugus-Allegany BOCES, Conf Rms 1, 2 & 3
1825 Windfall Rd.
Olean, NY 14760

About the Presenters:



Pat Breux, RN, BSN, is the Director of Youth and School Initiatives at the Suicide Prevention Center of New York. In her role, she provides policy guidance, as well as training, and consultation in best practices in suicide prevention, intervention and after suicide death to schools, youth serving organizations and communities across New York State. Her work has received National recognition and awards. She is the author and developer of the National Best Practice workshop, “Creating Suicide Safety in School.”

Mitch Samet, Ph.D. is a New York State licensed psychologist and certified school psychologist in private practice, with offices in both Pleasantville and Rye, NY. Dr. Samet has over 30 years of experience working with children, adolescents, young adults, and families. He has worked in a variety of school settings with elementary, middle school, and high school students. In school, Dr. Samet has conducted thousands of psychological evaluations, been a CSE and Section 504 Chairperson, a clinical team coordinator and a supervising psychologist. He is also an adjunct graduate professor in school psychology, specializing in cognitive and personality assessment. In addition, Dr. Samet is an executive board member of NYASP.



Amanda Nickerson, Ph.D., NCSP is a professor and director of the Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention at the University at Buffalo, the State University of New York. Dr. Nickerson’s research and applied work focuses on school violence and bullying, and how educators, parents, and peers can build social-emotional strengths of youth. She has published more than 80 journal articles and book chapters, written five books, and conducted over 300 professional presentations. Dr. Nickerson is a licensed psychologist, a nationally certified school psychologist, and a fellow of the American Psychological Association. She is Coordinator of Research for the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) School Safety and Crisis Prevention Committee and an author of the PREP_aRE School Crisis Prevention

and Intervention training curriculum. Dr. Nickerson has served as associate editor of the *Journal of School Violence* and is a member of the executive board of the New York Association of School Psychologists.

Gary Schaffer, M. S./C.A.S. is a School Psychologist and author of the book *Nuts & Bolts: Multi-Tiered Systems of Support: A Basic Guide to Implementing Preventative Practice in Our Schools and Community*. Gary is currently employed by the NYS Office of People with Developmental Disabilities. Additionally, he provides consultation and assessment services for the Erie County Medical Center and serves in the capacity of Adjunct Professor of School Psychology and Counseling at Niagara University. Previously, Gary was employed by the NYS Office of Mental Health, Frontier School District, and Lansing School District. In June, 2015, Gary met with national legislators in Washington, DC to support the inclusion of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). He has published numerous journal articles and often gives professional presentations on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Autism, and test anxiety. Currently, Gary is leading a national study on adolescents and adults with High Functioning Autism. Finally, Gary serves on the New York Association of School Psychologists Board (NYASP).



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