

Suicide Assessment and Intervention Training for Behavioral Health Professionals

Fri Mar 24, 2017 8:30 AM

This full-day workshop is designed to increase knowledge and improve the skills and confidence of clinicians and others who find themselves identifying high-risk youth and adults, and planning for their care. Participants will learn about the scope of the problem, review current information on suicide risk factors, and examine personal reactions to dealing with suicidal behaviors. Best practices in risk assessment will be presented and participants will learn techniques for eliciting suicidal ideation. Issues relative to liability management and planning for intervention will be presented. The workshop is based on current best practices and reflects the training objectives in the *2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention*. The program is listed in Section III of the SPRC Best Practices Registry for Suicide Prevention.

Presented by:

Larry Berkowitz, MPA, Ed.D. is the Director and co-founder of Riverside Trauma Center and holds an appointment as a Teaching Associate in Psychology, Part Time, at Harvard Medical School. Previously, he directed Riverside Outpatient Center at Wakefield, MA - a mental health and substance abuse treatment center. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention, and a member of the Survivors of Suicide Loss Task Force of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. A licensed Psychologist in Massachusetts, he has specialties in working with children, adolescents and families. He trains extensively on suicide prevention assessment and management of suicide, and postvention activities to contain suicide contagion in schools and communities. Dr. Berkowitz has consulted with numerous schools and communities in Massachusetts on trauma responses and clinical issues for the past 20 years, and leads a state-wide behavioral health trauma response network. He holds a Masters degree in Public Administration from Western New England College and a Doctorate of Education in Counseling and Consulting Psychology from Harvard University.

(6 CE Credits)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Manage personal reactions to suicidal clients.
2. List suicide warning signs and risk and protective factors.
3. Demonstrate techniques to elicit suicidal ideation and history of behaviors.
4. Identify strategies and tools to assess risk.
5. Describe how a client's ambivalence about suicide is an opportunity to intervene and how the client may view suicide as a coping strategy.
6. Explain the value of appropriate postvention and grief support services for individuals and communities affected by suicide.