Best Practices in Suicide Prevention and Intervention in Schools

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Abstract: Youth suicide rates have risen steadily since 2007 and many states have responded with legislation mandating staff training and comprehensive suicide prevention policies in schools. Recently, Gov. Ducey signed into law SB 1468 Mitch Warnock Act expanding suicide prevention training for school staff. This workshop will focus on current strategies of suicide prevention and intervention. Topics to be discussed include gatekeeper programming for staff/parents; depression screening for students, guidelines for intervening with suicidal students including assessment, notifying parents, re-entry and safety planning.

Learning Objectives:

1. Design a comprehensive best practice model for suicide prevention in the schools in accordance with the NASP Practice Model that addresses high-risk groups and includes guidelines for intervening with suicidal students.

2. Identify protective factors for youth and model practices for preventing youth suicide through gatekeeper, depression programming.

3. Assess student risk, utilize culturally responsive resources for parents, collaborate with law enforcement and local mental health resources and design re-entry plans that include safety planning.

Biography: Richard Lieberman MA, NCSP is a Lecturer in the Graduate School of Education at Loyola Marymount University and from 1986-2011 he coordinated Suicide Prevention Services for Los Angeles Unified School District, the second largest school district in the US. Richard is a co-author of the PREPaRE Model for NASP and numerous book chapters and articles on suicide prevention, intervention and postvention in the schools. Richard has consulted nationally with districts experiencing suicide clusters; served on the Steering Committee of the Suicide Prevention Resource Center and contributed to the SAMHSA Preventing Suicide and SPRC/AFSP After a Suicide school toolkits and California Department of Education’s Model Youth Suicide Prevention Policy.