Sample Faculty Education Sessions

These sessions will (1) familiarize high school faculty and staff with information on youth suicide so that they have a better understanding of suicidal behavior and (2) prepare participants to respond to a suicidal crisis or an actual suicide of someone in the school community. The sessions are presented in a lecture and discussion format using overhead visuals and handouts.

Session 1: Suicidal Youth and Youth Suicide

1. Introduce the presenter and topic.
2. Desensitize audience to the topic of suicide.
3. Discuss common myths about youth suicide.
4. Describe the general characteristics of suicidal youth.
5. Describe the early warning signs of suicidal risk.
6. Discuss the need to assess suicidal risk. Explain that one must ask directly about intent (for example, “Are you thinking about hurting yourself or killing yourself?”). Introduce the SLAP and DIRT models for assessing risk:
   - **SLAP:** The items in this acronym help assess current threat. The greater these factors, the greater the risk:
     - S = Specificity of plan
     - L = Lethality of plan
     - A = Availability of proposed method
     - P = Proximity of helping resources is remote
   - **DIRT:** The items in this acronym help assess current threat based on prior threats or attempts. The greater these factors, the greater the risk:
     - D = Danger of prior attempt was lethal.
     - I = Impression of youth that danger was high.
     - R = Rescue was remote.
     - T = Timing was recent.
7. Provide general intervention and referral strategies.
Session 2: School Crisis Response Plan

1. Introduce the presenter and topic.
2. Introduce and describe the school’s Crisis Response Plan.

RECOMMENDED READINGS AND RESOURCES


American Federation of Suicide Prevention. website. Information on AFSP’s Teen Suicide Prevention public Service Campaign Kit, www.afsp.org/index-1.htm under “For the Public.”


