

Suicide Prevention Training for Community Corrections Professionals

Program Description

Policy Research Associates, Inc., a national leader in the field of research and training on mental health issues within the justice systems, in partnership with the University of Rochester's Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide, a leading research center in the field, has collaborated on the development of a suicide prevention training curriculum for probation and parole officers. The *Suicide Prevention Training for Community Corrections Professionals* focuses on issues, identification of risk, and prevention of suicide in people who under the supervision of the community corrections system.

Overview

Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States. Individuals with mental illness and those experiencing significant life stressors are at an increased risk of suicide – approximately 90% of successful suicides have symptoms of a psychiatric disorder. Individuals with mental illness are over-represented in the criminal justice system, and justice involvement itself is a significant life stressor. As a key processing point, probation and parole departments are in contact with tens of thousands of high risk individuals each year. Due the unique insight into the lives of their clients, probation and parole officers may be in a unique position to identify those at imminent risk and to prevent suicide.

Objectives

Suicide Prevention Training for Community Corrections Professionals taps this professional group as a resource in preventing suicide in adult men and women. Court involvement and the preceding events can be significant life stressors that can increase suicide risk, which are often exacerbated upon re-entry into the community. Equally as important, these individuals are unlikely to be receiving services aimed at reducing risk. Community corrections professionals routinely interact with untreated individuals at above average risk for suicide at a time of elevated stress. This training addresses issues related to making appropriate and judicious referrals to qualified mental health professionals for further assessment, increases awareness of risk factors, and provides a practical model for taking action.

Purpose

For community corrections professionals, to provide:

- A forum to examine the issues in making referrals
- Information to better identify suicide risk
- An opportunity to improve skills for talking with the individuals about suicide
- Guidance regarding taking appropriate action

Description of Training

Suicide Prevention Training for Community Corrections Professionals is a three-hour instructor-led training program. It is designed to be a county or regionally-based event, attended by community corrections professionals as well as community stakeholders that can serve as resources for information and referral. The training is supported with full color slides, video, participant materials and tools to use in suicide prevention.

For More Information Contact:

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