

Presentation Title:

Creating a Caring Community Response to Suicide

Focus will be on supporting the development of the Help Outreach Taos (H.O.T.) response team while offering a systemic overview of prevention, intervention and postvention strategies

Details:

Date/ Time: Friday, Feb. 3rd from 9-3pm

Location: St. James Episcopal Church – Parish Hall- 208 Camino de Santiago, Taos, NM

Working Lunch: \$10 donation

Presentation Summary:

In the aftermath of a youth suicide or other traumatic school event, there are many questions and frequently few answers. This training will focus on the development of the H.O.T. Postvention response team charged with leading a school through the days and weeks following a tragic incident. Attendees will learn how to build an effective team with the essential skills for reducing the debilitating ripple effects of loss. This workshop will help attendees understand the complexity of youth suicide and grief, address essential skills needed for crisis work, and outline protocol and procedures needed to help schools and communities reduce the debilitating effects of such a loss.

This training offered for adult gatekeepers/ H.O.T. team members will also identify warning signs and high-risk symptoms (bullying, school failure, substance abuse, etc.), intervention and community resources. At the end of this workshop, participants will have an enhanced understanding of suicide risk factors and warning signs, understand the importance of directly asking the suicide question, and discover resources for developing a action team ready to respond in the event of a suicide. There will be opportunities for participants to assess their current strengths as a newly formed team and outline the details needed to move forward to implement both a Postvention response team and community based prevention and intervention planning.

Objectives:

1. Understanding basics in coordinating a safe and supportive response to suicide in schools.
2. Strengthen and clarify structure, mission and focus of Help Outreach Taos (H.O.T.) postvention response team
3. Explore and identify prevention strategies currently in place and others needed to create a community safety net to lower the risk of contagion among young people in the community.

Trainers:

Steering Committee members from the Postvention Team of Northern New Mexico, Susan Hayre and Joann Sartorius will provide this training coordinated by New Mexico Suicide Intervention Project. Susan Hayre, MFA, LMHC serves as the coordinator of the Postvention Team of Northern New Mexico. She works as a school counselor at El Camino Real Academy, a high-needs, dual-language school on the southside of Santa Fe and as a SKY Center group leader and intern mentor. JoAnn Sartorius, LISW, a founding member of the Postvention Team of Northern New Mexico, since 1975 prevention has been the focus of JoAnn's work in clinical and educational settings. Youth suicide prevention is at the heart of her work as a program manager, consultant and trainer for peer-to-peer helpers programs throughout the state. Her business, Prevention New Mexico, is located in Santa Fe. www.preventionnewmexico.com.