Developing a Crisis Response Team

A suicide can have a devastating impact on a community or organization especially if there isn’t a plan in place to take action after a suicide death. Developing a crisis response team is an important first step in coordinating a safe and supportive response to a suicide or other traumatic incident in light of the bewilderment and turmoil that often occurs.

A team of professionals who know what to do, are trained and prepared to act, and have an action plan in place will promote healing and reduce risk after a suicide.

The first day of training presents the Connect suicide postvention curriculum, including best practice protocols. In the second day, the participants will develop a comprehensive crisis response plan with assistance from the Connect trainer/consultant.

Training highlights Include:

- How to select a crisis response coordinator and team members
- The role of a crisis team members and coordinator
- Coordination and communication among team members
- Best practices such as how to communicate safely about suicide and restricting the availability of lethal means (e.g. guns, pills)
- Postvention protocols for specific service providers (e.g. mental health, law enforcement, education, social services)
- Surveillance of community “hot spots” to minimize future risk
- How to help individuals, families, organizations, and communities heal
- Understanding and implementing self care for the caregivers to manage compassion fatigue
- Creating a crisis plan, including immediate and long term actions

Length: Two days or tailored for specific audiences

Audience: Professionals whose job entails responding to a suicide death, including mental health professionals, law enforcement, faith leaders, school personnel, members of suicide prevention coalitions, and disaster response teams.

Location: your community

For more information contact The Connect Program 603-225-5359 info@theconnectprogram.org

Using a holistic, socio-ecological model, Connect examines suicide in the context of the individual, family, community, and society.