

# Healing Words: speaking safely about suicide



Training Professionals & Communities in  
Suicide Prevention & Response®

What we say and don't say is important-- our words and stories can help people heal or put vulnerable people at risk. This community forum will cover practical guidelines regarding how to talk safely about suicide and the research that shows why we need to follow these guidelines. 'Safe messaging' guidelines apply to our public and private conversations, as well as newspaper, radio, and internet reporting on a suicide death.

When those bereaved by suicide do not follow safe messaging guidelines, they can re-traumatize themselves and others. An optional healing circle for survivors of suicide loss, lead by local faith leaders and/or traditional healers, can close the forum.

## Program Highlights:

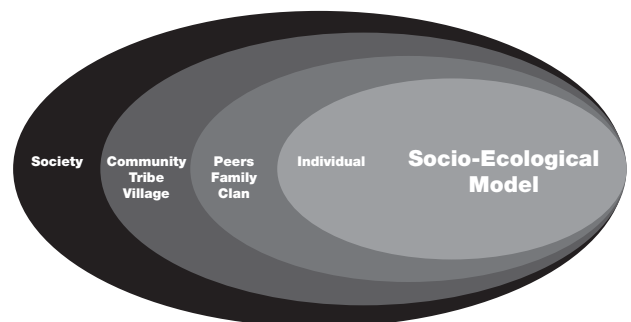
- Understanding the power of words in shaping culture and preventing suicide
- Knowledge about suicide contagion and its connection to safe messaging
- Familiarity with the "Do's and Don'ts" of national best practices in talking about suicide
- A review of examples of positive and negative media coverage of suicide incidents
- Strategies for encouraging responsible reporting and safe messaging using new and traditional media sources
- The impact social media can have on suicide prevention, intervention and postvention efforts and methods for utilizing social media in suicide prevention efforts
- A survivor of suicide loss sharing his or her story

**Length:** 1.5 to 3 hours, including an optional Healing Circle

**Audience:** The general public, professionals working in suicide prevention, survivors of suicide loss, members of the media.

**Location:** your community

For more information contact The Connect Program  
**603-225-5359** [info@theconnectprogram.org](mailto:info@theconnectprogram.org)



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