

Youth Risk Behavior: Responding to and Assessing Adolescent Suicide

Program Description

Participants in this workshop will be provided with information related recent trends in adolescent risk behavior as it relates to suicide. Content will focus on potential strategies used to modify or alter the risk taking. The behaviors will be examined from how they manifest in a community context primarily to criminal justice agencies.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this program, participants should be able to:

1. Introduce and provide an overview of key concepts and related interventions in adolescent suicide prevention;
2. Highlight several relevant and new research findings related to this topic;
3. Discuss practice lessons that have been identified during recent responses to suicide by young people in the community.

Target Audience

Social workers, human service professionals, educators, parents, and any person who interacts with adolescent youth.

Credit Hours

Up to 3 hours

Program Agenda

Available upon request

Faculty

Matthew Sullivan, JD, MSW, served the Town of Chapel Hill in a number of roles over a 32-year career. His last appointment was as Fire Chief, where he was responsible for Town and Departmental leadership and oversight. As a member of the Town's executive staff he participated in the development and implementation of the Town's strategic vision. Other positions that Matt held during his career include Emergency Management Coordinator, Interim Director of Planning and Sustainability, Staff Legal Advisor, Interim Police Attorney, Police Crisis Counselor, Narcotics Investigator, Departmental Hostage Negotiator., Community Police Officer, Crime Prevention Officer and DARE Officer.

Matt received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1989 and a Master of Social Work Degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1997. He received a Degree in Law from North Carolina Central University in 2006 and is a member of the North Carolina State and Judicial District 15-B Bars.

From 1995 to 1999, Matt was appointed Coordinator of Substance Abuse Programs at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In this capacity, he had the

responsibility of administering the day to day operations of the campus alcohol and other drug treatment and prevention efforts. Much emphasis was also placed on environmental interventions directed to altering campus social norms surrounding dangerous student drinking and life skill development in student athletes.

Matt is an adjunct faculty member to the University of North Carolina School of Social Work. He is a certified North Carolina Criminal Justice Instructor and is certified in Critical Incident Stress Management. He previously served as Chair of the Judicial District 15-B Criminal Justice Community Partnership Adult Services Advisory Committee and on the UNC-CH General Alumni Association Board of Directors. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the NC Governor's Institute (on Substance Abuse) and for the South Orange Rescue Squad. Matt is a recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the 2019 Chapel Hill Chamber Town and Gown Award, The Chapel Hill Police Department's Herman Stone Award for Community Service and a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UNC-School of Social Work. In 1994 he was named Chapel Hill Police Officer of the Year.