## Outline

# Today's Mental Health Issues in our Classrooms

Prevalence of depression, self-harm and suicide

The first line of defense: Role of teacher & school

Confidentiality & sharing of information A collaborative approach

#### Depression: Identify and Reach At-Risk Students

Telltale and hidden warning signs Key factors determining susceptibility, vulnerability and recovery

Emotional reserve

**Emotional resiliency** 

Creative strategies to reach at-risk students

Sorry 7 & Super 7

Activities to enhance connection

Techniques to increase engagement

Classroom & school-wide accommodations

#### Self-Harm: Develop a Protocol for Handling the Silent School Epidemic

Modes of self-harm: Similarities and differences Understanding the "why" of self-harm Protective factors & risk factors

The interconnected role of addiction, self-harm & suicide

Approaching and connecting with the student Strategies to support the at-risk student

Techniques to engage the disengaged Methods to build coping skills

Notifying and engaging the parents

#### Create a Suicide Crisis Team: Guidelines to Recognize and Respond to Suicidal Behaviors

Recognizing the underlying reasons

Risk factors: Low/medium/high level of risk Imminent warning signs - the strongest predictors

What to do when you suspect or hear of ideation Approaching and connecting with the student Strategies to:

Address and respond to ideation
Cope with a suicide attempt

Mobilize staff

Notifying and engaging the parents Is suicide contagious?

#### Prevention Toolkit: A Guide to help Prevent Depression, Self-Harm and Suicide

The role of Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) in preventing depression, self-harm and suicide A collaborative, strategic approach to integrate SEL into the curriculum

**Empower students** 

Promote connection

Case example: Effective K-12 SEL approach to prevention

# After Suicide: Postvention Plans for Schools

Short-term strategies

Long-term, school-wide interventions

Minimizing risk of self-harm & suicide contagion Case example: Successful postvention plans

# **Objectives**

- 1. Integrate techniques to build students' social/emotional skills, thus increasing the likelihood to establish positive relationships.
- 2. Recommend effective methods to detect the hidden signs of depression, self-harm & suicide and put to practical use in the schools.
- 3. Implement techniques that promote resiliency among all students thus improving their social and academic success.
- 4. Explore a collaborative approach to integrate SEL into the curriculum.
- 5. Ascertain the underlying reasons for self-harm & suicide in order to improve your connection with the student.
- 6. Provide guidelines for notifying and engaging parents.
- 7. Specify a suicide intervention team and delineate the role of each member.
- 8. Establish best practices for postvention plans in the aftermath of a suicide.

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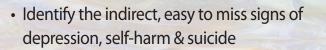
# Self-harm, Suicide and Depression in the Schools

An Identification, Prevention & Postvention Guide for Educators and All School-Based Professionals



# Self-harm, Suicide and Depression in the Schools

An Identification, Prevention & Postvention Guide for Educators and All School-Based Professionals



- Positively engage troubled, withdrawn youth
- Enhance students'self-esteem, self-acceptance
   and interpersonal effectiveness
- Build students' coping skills and strengthen resilience
- Effectively collaborate with family, peers and therapists to have the greatest impact

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## Self-harm, Suicide and Depression in the Schools

An Identification, Prevention & Postvention Guide for Educators and All School-Based Professionals

The school years are fraught with turmoil and strife for kids. In addition to the usual unrest, many of your students will be affected by emotional and/or mental health issues. They may present with dropping grades, decreased class participation and negative acting-out behavior. For some students, these issues escalate into more severe and complex behaviors that cause harm to both themselves and others. These students often become emotionally withdrawn, exhibit extreme mood swings, become severely depressed and may even resort to self-harm and/or suicide. These issues pose a serious challenge to you and your school.

As an educator, you are in the unique position to identify, help and support these struggling students. This seminar will examine the best strategies for identification, prevention and postvention among students with depression, self-harm and suicidal ideation. Emphasis will be placed on understanding how to detect and respond to at-risk students at the individual level, classroom level and school-wide level. You will learn strategies, techniques and interventions to provide the appropriate support and effectively help students cope. Whether you are a classroom teacher, school counselor/psychologist/social worker, administrator or support staff, you will leave this seminar armed with tools you need to connect with and help students who most need your help.

# Speaker

**John Bearoff, PhD,** has over 40 years of experience in a wide variety of settings including as a classroom teacher, substitute teacher, school psychologist, and private practitioner. This diverse background allows John to speak from a unique perspective of understanding - on all levels. John is a certified school psychologist and clinical psychologist.

Dr. Bearoff has conducted more than 300 in-service programs to school districts around the country. Topics for educators include grief/loss intervention, stress management with students and staff, crisis intervention, depression and suicide intervention and creating safe schools. John has been responsible for initiating and developing district wide programs on grief/loss intervention/postvention, student assistance programs for drug and alcohol intervention. He also created suicide prevention and anti-bullying programs for several large school districts. In addition, John has been the chairperson for school district committees created to establish district-wide safe schools plans. He has also been the chairperson for multicultural awareness committees, which established school district policies relating to diversity and tolerance.

Speaker Disclosures:

Financial: John Bearoff is in private practice. He receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc. Non-financial: John Bearoff has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.



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Over 200 Worksheets & Exercises for Trauma, ADHD, Autism, Anxiety, Depression & Conduct

#### By Robert Hull, Lisa Phifer, Amanda Crowder, Tracy Elsenraat

The CBT Toolbox for Children and Adolescents gives you the resources to help the children in your life handle their daily obstacles with ease. Written by clinicians and teachers with decades of experience working with kids, these practical and easy-to-use therapy tools are vital to teaching children how to cope with and overcome their deepest struggles. Step-by-step, you'll see how the best strategies from cognitive behavioral therapy are adapted for children.



#### The Clinician's Guide to Anxiety Disorders in Kids & Teens

Paul Foxman, Ph.D.

International anxiety expert and bestselling author Paul Foxman, PhD, utilizes his four decades of clinical experience to make the most comprehensive, hands-on guidebook available. This resource provides all the tools needed to assess and treat even the most severe cases of anxiety in today's generation.

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7:30 Registration/Morning Coffee & Tea

8:00 Program begins

**11:50-1:00** Lunch (on your own)

**4:00** Program ends

There will be two 15-min breaks (mid-morning & mid-afternoon). Actual lunch and break start times are at the discretion of the speaker. A more detailed schedule is available upon request.

#### **Target Audience:**

Classroom Teachers • Special Education Personnel Principals • School Administrators School Psychologists • School Counselors Social Workers • School Nurses • School Safety Specialists

School Resource Officers • Educational Paraprofessionals • Other Helping Professionals Who Work with Children

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Materials that are included in this course may include interventions and modalities that are beyond the authorized practice of mental health professionals. As a licensed professional, you are responsible for reviewing the scope of practice, including activities that are defined in law as beyond the boundaries of practice in accordance with and in compliance with your professions standards. PESI, Inc. offers continuing education programs and products under the brand names PESI, PESI Healthcare, PESI Rehab and Psychotherapy Networker.

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