

Developing a Community Suicide Postvention Plan



A suicide or other untimely traumatic death can have a devastating impact on a community. The shock and grief goes well beyond immediate family and friends and can ripple throughout the community affecting friends, coworkers, schools and faith communities.

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 in light of the bewilderment and turmoil that often occurs.

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

Training highlights Include:

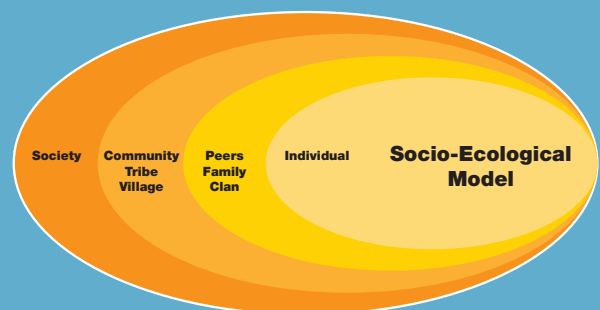
- How to coordinate a safe and supportive response to a suicide
- Selecting a postvention response coordinator and team members and defining their roles
- Communication among team members
- Reducing the risk of suicide-related phenomena (clusters, contagion, pacts)
- Best practices on communicating safely about suicide, responding to media, and restricting the availability of lethal means (e.g. guns, pills)
- Postvention protocols for a specific service provider (e.g. mental health, law enforcement, education, social services)
- Surveillance of community “hot spots” to minimize future risk
- How to help individuals, families, and communities heal
- Managing compassion fatigue
- Creating a suicide postvention response 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 and social service professionals, law enforcement, faith leaders, school personnel, medical examiners, coroners, suicide prevention coalitions, and disaster response teams.

Location: your community

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



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Connect is a designated National Best Practice Program developed by NAMI NH

