Training Available

Guidelines for Responding to Student Threats of Violence

We offer a one-day workshop on threat assessment training using our Guidelines for Responding to Student Threats of Violence. These Guidelines allow school-based teams to evaluate student threats of violence, quickly resolve less serious transient threats, and take appropriate action in response to more serious, substantive threats. School teams ordinarily consist of school administrators, mental health professionals (psychologists, counselors, social workers) and law enforcement officers.

The Virginia Student Threat Assessment Guidelines is listed in the federal government’s National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP). It is used in more than 2,700 schools in 14 states. The Guidelines have been evaluated in 2 field-test studies and 3 controlled studies published in refereed journals. These studies have found that schools using the Guidelines have lower rates of long-term suspensions, fewer alternative school transfers, and fewer bullying incidents. Students in these schools report less bullying, greater willingness to seek help for bullying and threats of violence, and more positive perceptions of the school climate than students in control group schools.

Sample Training Schedule

1. Rationale for threat assessment: Fears versus facts
2. How to conduct a threat assessment
   a. Transient threats
   b. Substantive threats
3. Legal issues
   a. Confidentiality
   b. Liability
4. Case studies illustrating pathways to violence
5. Team exercises

Contact Dr. Cornell for workshop costs dcornell@virginia.edu. The manual is available on Amazon.com.

Dewey Cornell, Ph.D. is a forensic clinical psychologist and Professor of Education at the University of Virginia, where he holds the Bunker Chair in Education. Dr. Cornell directs the Virginia Youth Violence Project and has studied youth violence for 30 years. Dr. Cornell assisted the FBI’s National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime in its study of school shootings and has consulted with many school divisions on safety and violence prevention. He has authored more than 200 publications in psychology and education, including *Juvenile Homicide* and *School Violence: Fears versus Facts*. 