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HEALTHY MINDS
STRONG COMMUNITIES


Understanding Organizational Suicide Postvention Practices

Sponsored By:
*Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
Services (TDMHSAS) in partnership with the Tennessee
Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO)*


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Welcome!



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Logistics!


- This training is being **recorded** and will be available for 60 days.
- A PDF copy of the **slides** will be provided.
- Please complete the **evaluation** at the end, especially for continuing education credits.
- To ask questions or comment, use the **Q & A feature or chat box**.

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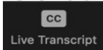
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Asking a Question & Using Closed Captioning



All functions are located at the bottom of your screen

- Ask questions by using the Q&A or chat function (you will **not** be able to unmute). Please indicate if you would like your questions to be anonymous.
- Use the chat for discussion & interactive activities.
- Click  and then select "Show Subtitle" to access closed captioning or "View Full Transcript" to access the transcript.

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Learning Objectives:


Participants will be able to:



Define what suicide postvention and other key terms are related to an organizational response after a suicide.



Outline the essential elements involved in creating a structured postvention plan within an organization.



Examine strategies for conducting incident reviews, root cause analysis, and continued bereavement support for those affected by a suicide.

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Poll

- Does your organization have an implemented postvention policy and/or procedures?
 - Yes, with consistent implementation
 - Yes, some implementation
 - Yes, but uncertain of level of implementation
 - No
 - I don't know

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Postvention can Lead to Prevention



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- What is postvention?
- Who are suicide loss survivors?

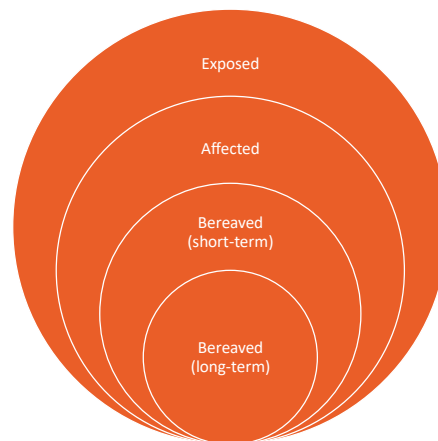


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The Continuum of Suicide Loss Survivors

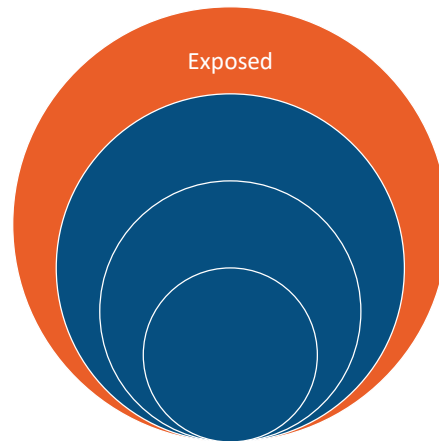


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Exposed Suicide Loss Survivors

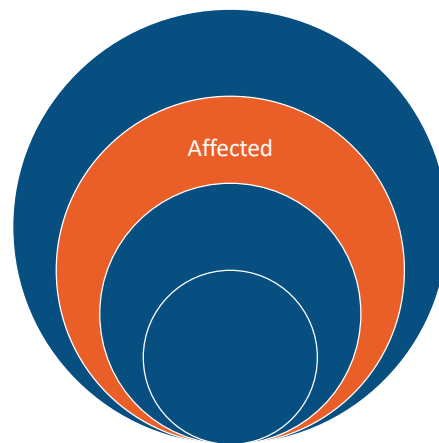


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Affected Suicide Loss Survivors

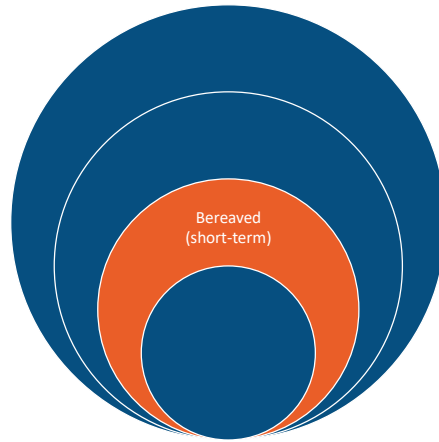


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Bereaved (short-term) Suicide Loss Survivors

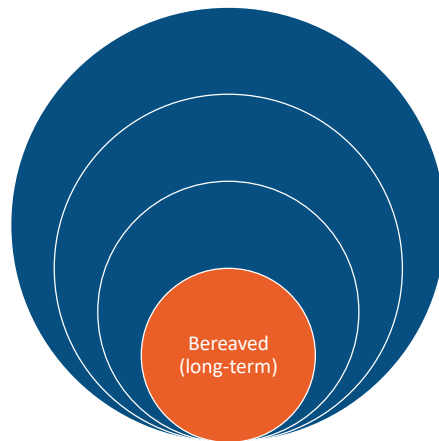


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Bereaved (long-term) Suicide Loss Survivors



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Postvention is prevention

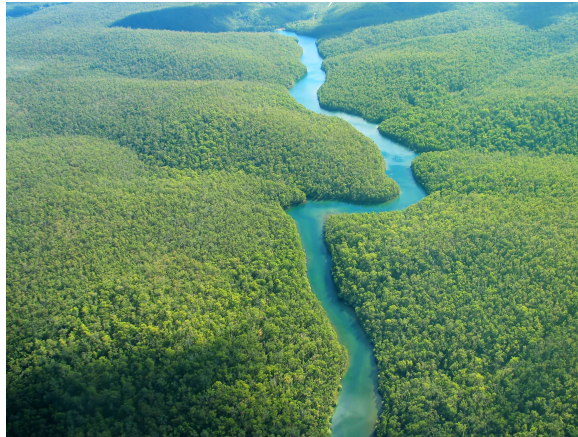


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Organizational Suicide Postvention



- Increased client population increases likelihood
- Populations with elevated suicide risk
- Leadership and champion involvement



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Policy and Protocol

It is important to have an effective suicide postvention protocol in place before an individual dies by suicide.



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Separate and Distinct Postvention Components



Incident Debriefing



Root Cause Analysis



Ongoing Bereavement Care

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Component: Incident Debriefing

- Typically, within the first 24 – 72 hours
- Overview of process:
 - Facilitator should review the record in advance
 - Establish safety
 - Review and process the obtained details
 - Review the grief responses
 - Follow up – segue to ongoing bereavement care



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Component: Root Cause Analysis (RCA)

Typically, within 2-6 weeks

Overview of process

Define the problem / event
 Collect data
 Identify causal factors
 Identify root cause(s)
 Implement solutions.



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Common Root Causes in Healthcare



- Gaps in Risk Identification
- Communication Breakdowns
- Gaps in Care Planning
- Access to Lethal Means
- Staffing and Workflow Issues
- Organizational Culture & Training
- System-Level Barriers



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Component: Ongoing Bereavement Care

- Typically occurring for 6 – 18 months
- Immediate and ongoing support
 - Groups and resources
 - Supervision or other 1:1 support
 - EAPs
 - Caring contacts



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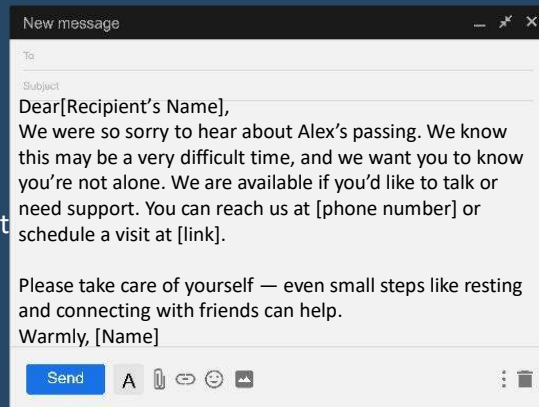
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Caring Contacts for Suicide Loss Survivors

- Letter, phone call, email, or text message
- Does not expect or require action from recipient



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Additional Considerations and Processes

Media, public relations, and social media interactions

Attending memorials, Celebrations of Life, or other ceremonies/services

Following up with incident reporting, regulatory, or other requirements

Data and tracking

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Workforce Development Opportunities

- General education about suicide including risk factors, etc.
- Screening for suicide
- Safety planning, means restriction counseling and other brief and ongoing interventions
- Potential risk of suicide for those in helping professions
- Strategies for working with suicide attempt survivors and suicide loss survivors



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Group Reflection

What tasks, activities,
or actions you have
taken to provide
postvention at your
organization?

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Resources

- Crises Action School Toolkit On Suicide: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/suicideprevention/cast-s2022.pdf>
- CMS Root Cause Analysis: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/qapi/downloads/guidanceforrca.pdf>
- Montana Community Suicide Postvention Toolkit: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/suicideprevention/MontanaSuicidePostventionToolkit.pdf>
- Resources for Suicide Postvention Planning by SPRC: https://sprc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Spotlight_Postvention_ResourceSheetv03.pdf
- Suicide Prevention by the Mental Health Risk Retention Group: <https://suicideprevention.mhrrg.com/>
- Zero Suicide: <https://zerosuicide.edc.org/>



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Questions and Discussion



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Thank you for attending!



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