Adolescent Suicidal Behavior
Recognition, Assessment and Intervention

Friday, February 26, 1999
Two Events
Afternoon Workshop
Evening Dinner Session

Featured Speaker
John Piacentini, PhD

Sponsored by
Dominican Hospital Foundation
Calciano Family Fund, Jon E. Nadherny Memorial
About the program
This overview of characteristics and causes of adolescent suicidal behavior also presents a method for assessing and intervening with high-risk suicidal youths. SNAP (Successful Negotiation, Acting Positively) is a highly structured, cognitive-behavioral treatment program that teaches suicidal adolescents and their families methods for identifying suicide-triggering situations. SNAP includes techniques for defusing these situations through the use of effective and empathetic communication, family problem-solving and other coping strategies.

The presentation given during the afternoon workshop, will be repeated at the evening dinner session. The afternoon workshop will include a panel discussion with the featured speaker and local professionals from law enforcement, education and county mental health services.

Who should attend?
This program has been designed for primary care practitioners, pediatricians, mental health clinicians and volunteers, nurses, social services professionals, educators, law enforcement professionals and anyone concerned about adolescent suicidal behavior.

Learning Objectives
After the presentation, participants will:

1. Recognize psychiatric, psychosocial and familial risk factors for suicidal behavior in adolescents.
2. Identify the role of the family in the development and maintenance of suicidal behavior in adolescents.
3. Discuss techniques for defusing negative family attitudes and reframing family conflicts in order to reduce blame and create a more positive family environment.
4. State the key components of SNAP treatment, including the development of a family problem hierarchy, the family problem-solving model, how to identify and address barriers to problem solving, and strategies for successful problem negotiation.
5. Become familiar with local resources and the process within Santa Cruz County for managing youth and young adults at risk for suicide.

Featured Speaker
John Piacentini, PhD is an Assistant Professor in Residence for the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at the University of California Los Angeles School of Medicine; Co-Director of the Child and Adolescent Anxiety Disorders Program at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute; Consulting Psychiatrist with the Children’s and Family Services Division of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health; and Director of the Child and Adolescent Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder and Related Disorders Program at UCLA.

Doctor Piacentini has conducted extensive research on childhood and adolescent suicide, has published numerous journal articles and textbook chapters, and is an internationally known lecturer.

Panel Members
(afternoon workshop only)
Greg Bruno, PhD, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Santa Cruz County Children's Mental Health
Tom Burke, Supervisor, Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance Program
Mark Tracy, Santa Cruz County Sheriff

Dominican Hospital Foundation
For over 30 years, Dominican Hospital Foundation has helped Dominican Hospital introduce advanced medical services and ensure that services are available to all the people of Santa Cruz County, regardless of their financial resources.

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