



Connect/Frameworks Suicide Postvention Program

Setting
Communities

Type of Program
Education & Training

NSSP Goals Addressed
Multiple

Program Description

Developed by NAMI New Hampshire, the *Connect/Frameworks Suicide Postvention Program* trains key service providers and community members to provide an integrated community response to reduce risk and promote healing in the aftermath of a suicide. Effective postvention is an essential component of suicide prevention thus postvention training should be incorporated into any comprehensive suicide prevention effort.

Specific training based on best practice protocols is available to each key service provider group including *law enforcement/first responders, coroners, military, faith leaders, educators, mental health clinicians, social service agencies, funeral directors* etc). In addition to delineating their specific roles and responsibilities, the training provides a common foundation and language which promotes collaboration and improved working relationships. This is particularly important in the case of high profile suicides (e.g. a youth or well known adult). The focus of the training is to create an integrated, coordinated community response that (1) enhances collaboration and coordination to provide the most effective intervention (2) assures outreach and prevention through rapid and comprehensive communication, including best practices, safe messaging, appropriate memorial services, and media guidelines; and, (3) engages resources to help survivors and the community with grieving and healing.

The *Connect/Frameworks Postvention* protocols were developed through coordination and facilitation of statewide, interdisciplinary working groups that included a variety of stakeholders and experts. Training activities and materials based on these protocols were developed by *Connect/Frameworks* staff in consultation with experts in training and best practices in suicide prevention, and then tested and evaluated prior to implementation.

Program Objectives

After training, participants in the *Connect/Frameworks Postvention* training will have:

1. Increased knowledge of warning signs and risk and protective factors for a person at risk for suicide.
2. Increased understanding of the impact of suicide, and the grief and increased risk that can result
3. Increased knowledge of ways to enhance coping and healing for oneself and others after a loss
4. Increased understanding of the roles and responsibilities of key service providers for communication, promoting an integrated community response and access to resources after a suicide.

Implementation Essentials

- Training available in several formats including full day for key professional provider groups as indicated above or a three day train the trainer format for those with supervisory or training skill by two *Connect/Frameworks Postvention* trainers (using a "Train the Trainer" model).
- Technical support and consultation to community trainers and individuals coordinating a postvention effort

Contact Information

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Costs

Specialized training for up to 20 participants is available for gatekeepers (community members) and professional service providers (as listed above) for \$1,600 (excluding travel) per trainer per day. Train the Trainer is \$6,000 (3 days). Customized training is available regarding working with media, impact of communication technology on suicide prevention/postvention, cultural aspects of suicide prevention. Consultation is available for \$160 per hour.

*The content of practices listed in Section III (Adherence to Standards) of the SPRC/AFSP Best Practices Registry address specific goals of the *National Strategy for Suicide Prevention* and have been reviewed by a panel of three suicide prevention experts and found to meet standards of accuracy, safety, and programmatic guidelines. Practices were not reviewed for evidence of effectiveness. Additional information about the Best Practices Registry can be found at www.sprc.org.

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