



School Safety Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 9

April 2018

Nation's Top Suicide Prevention Organization Partner to Release New Critical Resource for Schools

CISION PR Newswire, April 17, 2018

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/nations-top-suicide-prevention-organizations-partner-to-release-new-critical-resource-for-schools-300629565.html>

Although youth suicide prevention efforts have increased in schools over the past decade, suicide is a leading cause of death among young people. In 2011, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) collaborated to create a resource providing middle and high schools with guidance on how to support school communities after a suicide occurs. Today, these organizations have released a newly updated second edition of this free resource, *After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools*.

The updated toolkit includes best practices for how school administrators and staff should respond to a suicide death, with information on helping students cope, reaching out to parents, and working with the community—including coroners, police departments, funeral directors, faith leaders, and mental health professionals. It provides tips on working with the media, tools for deciding how to safely memorialize students, and sample social media messages. Also included is important information on how to reduce the risk of suicide contagion (i.e., when exposure to a suicide death may influence others to attempt suicide).

"It is critically important that schools have a plan for responding in the tragic event that a student ends his or her own life. Schools will need to communicate effectively, quickly and in accordance with best practices, while at the same time, supporting grieving students and faculty," said Dr. Doreen Marshall, AFSP Vice President of Programs. "The revised toolkit guides schools in the aftermath of suicide and can be used by schools to help them develop a response in advance of a suicide death. Written and reviewed by suicide prevention and school experts, it is a document that addresses many of the questions that schools have following a suicide death, while also giving them a framework through which to effectively respond. The last version of the toolkit released in 2011 is the premier resource schools turn to and we know this revision will be just as valuable."

"The loss of a student to suicide is a traumatic event for the entire school community. *After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools* provides school administrators and staff with guidance for supporting those affected by the loss—including students, parents, teachers, and vulnerable members of the community," said Elly Stout, director of SPRC, which is based at the nonprofit Education Development Center. By helping the school community cope with and process a suicide loss, the school can play a critical role in reducing suicide risk and preventing future tragedy.

The toolkit was developed primarily for administrators and staff in middle and high schools, but is also useful for parents and communities, and in some cases can be used in other educational settings. Developed by top suicide prevention experts and peer reviewed by academic and clinical professionals, *After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools* has been endorsed by the National Association of School Psychologists, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the American School Counselor Association. Here's what they had to say:

National Association of School Psychologists: "After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools provides step-by-step guidance, templates, and resources all in one place. It is a vital resource to help school administrators and crisis teams plan for and implement appropriate postvention strategies to facilitate communications, support grieving students and staff, identify at-risk individuals, and more."

National Association of Secondary School Principals: "Toolkits like *After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools* provide our members with tools and resources designed to help them work with faculty, staff, students, and

*Protecting our
future through
information
sharing*

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Nation's Top Suicide Prevention Organization Partner to Release New Critical Resource for Schools (Continued)

others to restore the health of the school community. Resources like these are integral in helping principals and other school leaders carry out their mission to serve all students."

American School Counselor Association: "After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools, developed by AFSP and SPRC, is a valuable guide to help school personnel prepare for the tumultuous and stressful aftermath of a student suicide and to help prevent future tragedies." This launch comes just prior to the American Association of Suicidology's annual conference in Washington, D.C., in which AFSP and SPRC are both taking part.

This resource was made possible by funds raised at AFSP Out of the Darkness Community Walks held throughout the country, other AFSP fundraising events, and through SPRC's grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS).

To view the toolkit: <https://afsp.org/AfterASuicide>

About the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide. AFSP creates a culture that's smart about mental health through education and community programs, develops suicide prevention through research and advocacy, and provides support for those affected by suicide. Led by CEO Robert Gebbia and headquartered in New York, AFSP has local chapters in all 50 states with programs and events nationwide. Learn more about AFSP in its latest Annual Report, and join the conversation on suicide prevention by following AFSP on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

About the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) is the nation's only federally supported resource center devoted to advancing the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. Based at the nonprofit Education Development Center, SPRC enhances the nation's mental health infrastructure by providing states, government agencies, private organizations, colleges and universities, and suicide survivor and mental health consumer groups with access to the science and experience that can support their efforts to develop programs, implement interventions, and promote policies to prevent suicide. Follow SPRC on Facebook and Twitter.

SOURCE American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; Suicide Prevention Resource Center

Related Links

<http://www.sprc.org/>

<http://www.afsp.org>

Teen Dating Abuse: 2018 Resource Guide

CSN Children's Safety Network

<https://www.childrenssafetynetwork.org/resources/teen-dating-abuse-2018-resource-guide>

Teen dating abuse is physical, sexual, or emotional abuse (including stalking) that occurs between teens and pre-teens in a relationship. It can take place in person or online, and can involve a current or past partner (CDC, 2016).

Teen dating abuse is quite common, affecting around one in ten high school students. The 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found that 9.6% of high school students had been physically hurt (hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon) by a dating partner on purpose within the past year. This was higher among female students (11.7%) than male (7.4%) students. Sexual violence was even more common, with 10.6% of students reporting being forced to do something sexual (kissed, touched, or physically forced to have sexual intercourse) within the past year by a dating partner. Again, more female students (15.6%) reported this than male students (5.4%).

These statistics are particularly troubling given the lasting impact that teen dating abuse can have on victims. Students who experienced dating abuse were more likely than those who hadn't to report being bullied on school grounds and missing school because they felt unsafe (Vivolo-Kantor, 2016). Those who experience teen dating abuse are more likely than those who haven't to become depressed or anxious, use drugs or alcohol, or become suicidal. Victims of teen dating abuse are also at an increased risk for being abused in future relationships (CDC, 2016).

This resource guide provides links to organizations, programs, publications, and resources focused on preventing teen dating abuse. It is divided into six sections: (1) national organizations; (2) prevention programs and interventions; (3) data, fact sheets, infographics, and toolkits; (4) policy and legislation; (5) special populations; and (6) research.

To download the PDF of the resource guide, visit: <https://www.childrenssafetynetwork.org/sites/childrenssafetynetwork.org/files/Teen%20Dating%20Abuse%20Resource%20Guide%202018.pdf>

Monthly Webinars!

First Wednesday of Every Month

at 10 am

(Except January, July, and August).

Next Webinars

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

Each webinar has a round table discussion at the end. Questions are always welcome!

To participate, you must be a vetted member. For more information please email schoolsafety@isp.state.il.us

Impostors on Social Media Exploit Parkland Shooting Victims and Family

Sun Sentinel, April 20, 2018

<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/parkland/florida-school-shooting/fl-sb-twitter-fake-accounts-victims-20180417-story.html>

Impersonators on social media are posing as the Parkland shooting victims and their family members — trying to dupe the public, discredit the victims or profit from deceit.

“That’s so sick,” said Marie Laman, whose 15-year-old son, Kyle, is among the wounded Marjory Stoneman Douglas students to recently be impersonated on Twitter. “Who does that?”

These fake social-media accounts spread after tragedies that attract worldwide attention, and the Parkland school massacre is the latest lure, experts say.

Scammers spin a story to make it appear credible and target people’s “emotional buttons” to make money, said said Gleb Tshipursky, a professor at Ohio State University who studies the circulation of fake news on social media.

The contentious gun debate in the U.S. might make the matter worse.

Many Stoneman Douglas students have emerged as leaders in the push for gun reform, so those who disagree with them may impersonate them, said Melanie C. Green, an associate professor at the University at Buffalo in New York who specializes in deception online.

The goal is “to discredit them — and by extension, weaken their political impact,” Green said.

Kyle Laman, 15, has been through three surgeries to repair the damage of a bullet that tore into the top of his ankle and faces two more operations. One of the Twitter impostors asked for money under his name, leading other Twitter users to notify Kyle’s family.

Meanwhile, Adam Pollack, the cousin of shooting victim Meadow Pollack, urged his followers not to follow a fake account with his name. “This is not me, they’re going around asking for money like my cousin’s death is some type of joke,” he wrote.

The account has since been removed from Twitter.

Andrea Gheri, the sister of 17-year-old shooting victim Joaquin Oliver, posted on Twitter that the “same person that was pretending to be me is now pretending to be ‘a school survivor.’”

It’s unclear whether any of the Parkland impostors profited. FBI spokesman James Marshall said he said he didn’t have specifics about the Parkland cases, but he called such scams “common and costly.”

If caught, fraudsters face a variety of criminal charges, including identity theft, said Sarah Schall, spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

The Florida Attorney General’s Office has received about a dozen complaints and questions about potential fraud related to the Parkland shooting.

The office helped get a fake video removed from YouTube, one that claimed to show a Parkland victim’s funeral service. Someone notified the attorney general, concerned it was fraud. YouTube removed the video for violating its policies on harassment and bullying.

“We review and, when appropriate, actively work each complaint we receive to ensure that fraudulent or suspicious campaigns are shut down,” said Kylie Mason, spokeswoman for Attorney General Pam Bondi.

Victims of other tragedies across the U.S. have dealt with similar impostors.

In 2012, after the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, the family of one of the slain teachers said people were setting up fake social media accounts with her name.

The family applied to trademark Victoria Soto’s name in an attempt to stop others from misusing it on social media.

Her sister, Jillian Soto, said people’s fake accounts promoted conspiracy theories about the massacre, some of which were used to harass her and other family members. She said the misuse of her sister's name also made it harder for people to find links to the legitimate Vicki Soto Memorial Fund, which raises money for scholarships for aspiring educators.

After the 2016 Pulse nightclub massacre in Orlando, more than 430 fundraisers were posted on GoFundMe, the crowdfunding website. The fundraisers included travelers asking for cash, a practitioner of ancient healing, a personal safety instructor who sells quick loaders for assault rifles and even convicted identity impostors, the Associated Press reported.

Impostors on Social Media Exploit Parkland Shooting Victims and Family (Continued)

After the Las Vegas shooting rampage killed 58 people last year, at least three campaigns were set up for apparently fake victims who were not listed among the dead, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

It disturbed Kyle Laman's family to find out somebody was using his name and image on a fake Twitter account. "He did not have a Twitter [account] till a couple of days ago, when he signed up to see what was going on," his mother said.

The family alerted Twitter about the impersonation and the account was suspended. Now Kyle is on Twitter as @Kylelaman16, "the real kyle msd survivor."

Ocala School Shooter Makes First Appearance

Gainesville, April 21, 2018

<http://www.gainesville.com/news/20180421/ocala-school-shooter-makes-first-appearance>

The 19-year-old charged Friday with terrorism and a host of other charges after he shot into a door at a high school, which injured a student, remains in jail on the first Temporary Risk Protection Order that has been entered in the 5th Judicial Circuit.

Sky Bouche was arrested early Friday after he brought a sawed off shotgun into Forest High School in Ocala inside a guitar case and later fired the weapon into a door. Shrapnel hit a 17-year-old student in the ankle.

The new Temporary Risk Protection Order went into effect last month, enacted following the Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, in which 17 people died.

Marion County Sheriff's Office officials said that under the new law, if a law enforcement official believes a person poses a danger to themselves or others by possessing a firearm or ammunition the law enforcement agency can petition a court to have the individual immediately surrender the firearm and prohibit them from possessing or purchasing firearms for the duration of the court order.

A handcuffed Bouche made his first appearance in front of Judge Willard Pope on Saturday morning at the Marion County Jail, with a public defender by his side.

Pope read the list of charges — terrorism, aggravated assault with a firearm, carrying a concealed firearm, culpable negligence, possession of a firearm on school property, possession of a short-barrelled shotgun, interference in school property and armed trespass on school property — and told Bouche he will be held without bond.

Pope said the reason for the no bond status was due to the nature of the charges.

Bouche, who is on suicide watch at the jail, meaning he is under close watch, walked out of the courtroom with the public defender by his side.

Bouche's next court date was set for May 22.

According to MCSO Detective John Lightle's report, Bouche drove a gray 2006 Nissan SUV onto the campus of Forest High School, at 5000 SE Maricamp Road, Ocala, early Friday. The report lists Bouche's current residence as being in Crystal River, in Citrus County. He was a former student at Forest High.

The report states that Bouche had a 17 1/2 inch shotgun concealed in a guitar case. He went into a bathroom, where he put on a tactical vest and gloves and then walked into a hallway with the weapon.

He fired a shot into a door. The shrapnel hit a 17-year-old boy on the other side of the door in the ankle.

Bouche dropped the weapon and surrendered to Kelly McManis-Panasuk, who had been one of his teachers when he was a student at the school.

McManis-Panasuk said when she encountered Bouche, "His hands were up and he said he wanted to be arrested ... I am mentally ill," she said.

She said she asked him if he had shot a gun and he said yes. She yelled: "Where?"

She said he told her, "I shot a door. I didn't think it (the gun) would work."

The two of them talked for about three minutes, which was when Deputy Jim Long, the school resource officer, and principal Brent Carson arrived at where they were standing. Long took Bouche into custody.

The school was immediately placed on lock down. Numerous local, state and federal law enforcement officials soon arrived at the school. Parents were advised to go to First Baptist Church of Ocala nearby. The students were ferried by school bus from the campus to the church to be reunited with their parents.

Bouche was taken to the Sheriff's Office. He told detectives that he drove from Citrus County to the school and went into the bathroom to arm himself. He said he came out of the bathroom and saw a female student walk by him without noticing him. He said he fired a round in the door. He said he dropped the weapon and surrendered to the teacher.

Ocala School Shooter Makes First Appearance (Continued)

Bouche told detectives that his purpose was to “inflict fear in students, but he did not intend to kill anyone.”

He told them he had planned to do some sort of shooting on Friday the 13th, but changed his mind. He said he was having nightmares, which prompted his decision to do the shooting on Friday.

Bouche also told detectives that he had researched a previous church shooting and said it did not get any media attention. He said with a school shooting, it “creates more attention.”

He also said he was being ignored and wanted to go to jail and that he could “potentially conduct another shooting in the future,” the report states.

In an interview with the Star-Banner not long after his arrest, Bouche said his first memories are of “violence and conflict.” He said he had wanted to join the United States Marines Corps, but could not because he was “Baker Acted when I was 14.”

The Baker Act allows officials to commit someone for mental health evaluation if he or she is deemed a threat to themselves or someone else.

Bouche told detectives that on Friday morning he felt an adrenaline rush and was ready for the shooting. He said when he arrived at the school, there was no one around so he entered the bathroom, got dressed and was ready for action.

He said the excitement wore off quickly, however, and he was unable to continue with his plan.

Bouche said he purchased the shotgun in a private sale roughly a week after the February school shooting in south Florida. He said there is no paperwork for the 1930 shotgun and because it was a private sale, there was no background check. He said he should never have been allowed to buy a firearm.

All Marion County schools were on lockdown Friday as a precaution. Sheriff Billy Woods and school officials said during a midday press conference that lives were saved because of earlier protocols that had been put in place.

In a second press conference later in the day, it was announced that county and city of Ocala officials had committed to placing a school resource officer in every school starting Monday.

Email Hoaxes and Phishing Scams Prey Off of School Violence Fears

SC Magazine, April 13, 2018

<https://www.scmagazine.com/email-hoaxes-and-phishing-scams-prey-off-of-school-violence-fears/article/758240/>

A Swiss hacking group has reportedly claimed credit for using a hijacked email domain to bombard schools around the U.S. with fake threats of violence. And in related news, security awareness training provider KnowBe4 issued a warning on Thursday about a credentials phishing campaign that also preys on school shooting fears by impersonating a campus security alert.

According to multiple news outlets, a group called the Apophis Squad sent disturbing hoax emails to school district superintendents in at least 46 states last Sunday and Monday, triggering an increased police presence and in some cases class cancellations. The emails featured the subject line "Student help!" and purported to be authored by a bullied student who threatened to show up at school "with 3 bombs, and a .22 handgun."

The adversaries reportedly used the email address apophissquad@zonix.us, after hijacking the domain of Zonix, a Dallas-based online gaming company that provides Minecraft servers.

"Over the past few hours we were directly contacted by a group that threatened to send a bomb hoax spoofing our email domain in an attempt to directly smear and harm Zonix," states a series of tweets posted on Zonix's official Twitter account on Apr. 9. "We began to realize the threat was credible when we began hearing responses from school superintendents pertaining to this situation. We are aware that some schools might have been affected by this and we apologize for any inconvenience or panic that could have happened because of this situation.

Apophis Squad's account on Twitter, meanwhile, has been suspended. But a journalist with the Union-Democrat in Sonora, Calif. reportedly made contact with one of the hackers, who said the attack's motive was to taunt law enforcement, adding "We got nothing better to do." The hacker also stated future plans to leak information originating from a U.S. Army database.

Reportedly, the same perpetrators previously sent similar threats to UK-based schools in March 2018, using the domain of Zonix competitor VeltPvP.

Email Hoaxes and Phishing Scams Prey Off of School Violence Fears (Continued)

Meanwhile, an unnamed community college in Florida was recently targeted in phishing campaign spoofing its campus-wide security alerts, according to a KnowBe4 founder and CEO Stu Sjouwerman, who warns in a company blog post that this scheme could easily spread to additional educational institutions as well as companies and organizations that have established active shooter protocols.

The email arrives with a subject line such as "IT DESK: Security Alert Reported on Campus," "IT DESK: Campus Emergency Scare" or "IT DESK: Security Concern on Campus Earlier," and instructs recipients to click a link to a memo containing proper instructions. However, the link leads to a credentials phishing page that imitates the Microsoft log-in process, which many campuses computers require.

"What makes this particular attack so infuriating," remarks Sjouwerman, is that it exploits current concerns over active shooters on education campuses, a sensitive issue that could likely generate panicked, reflexive clicks from recipients who are already on edge over the recent shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, also in Florida."

Talking Tips for Parents on School Violence, Threats

Daily News, April 18, 2018

http://dnews.com/local/talking-tips-for-parents-on-school-violence-threats/article_616436b6-42d5-11e8-877e-f386fe8c600e.html

In the wake of a recent threat against two Moscow schools, many parents on the Palouse have contemplated how to talk about school violence with their children — or if they should even address it at all.

Tara Roberts, who has a 9-year-old son in the Moscow School District, said her son waited until his younger brother had gone to bed one night before talking to his parents about the threat, which he heard about from other children. "He said, 'There is something I really need to talk to you about,'" Roberts said. "He was afraid that we would be scared or confused because he didn't think we knew about (the threat)." She said she and her husband had chosen not to talk to their sons about the threat because of how young their children are. "It was a hard moment as a parent," she said. "It was a heartbreaking thing to realize that we cannot protect him."

Roberts said after talking with her oldest son and explaining to him there are many people working to keep him safe, she and her husband decided to discuss the threat with their 6-year-old son as well. Roberts said she and her husband have told their children it is their decision whether or not to attend school today.

She said she has full trust that the school district, teachers and the Moscow Police Department are doing everything in their power to make the schools a safe place, but, as parents, they do not want to force their children into doing something they are afraid of. Moscow School District Superintendent Greg Bailey sent an email to all district parents Monday in which he attached an article by Colorin Colorado, a bilingual education service, that included several tips on how parents can talk to children about school violence.

The article says that parents should encourage any questions their child may have, and that it is OK if parents admit they don't have all of the answers as long as they reassure their child that their school is a safe place. If the child is not ready to talk, parents should be patient and wait for the child to start the conversation and ask questions, the article says.

Empowering children is also an important step, whether it be through fundraising, writing letters or other forms of action. Dan Bayly, clinical director at Paradise Creek Counseling and Consulting, said "The No. 1 thing is to talk to your kids and keeping an open flow of communication." Bayly said sometimes parents avoid talking to their children about difficult topics because they do not know how to approach it or do not want to induce concern.

"No matter the age, kids are going to hear things about it," Bayly said, noting usually the information is inaccurate or dramatized because they get it from peers or social media. He said parents should test the waters and see what their child knows first by asking general questions, such as "What did you and your friends talk about at school today?" Bayly said it is important to let children dictate the direction of the conversation and to let them share what is on their minds and what scares them.

He said parents should emphasize each school has plans and protocols in place in the event a threat does occur. Bayly said younger children often do not understand the news cycle and can sometimes feel that the event is happening over and over again, when in actuality it is just being repeated on the news. He said it is important to limit a child's exposure to news sources, adding that if parents explain to their children that an alleged perpetrator was caught or that an incident happened far away from them, it might make the child feel safer.

"As a general rule, it is a good thing to keep in mind we have to utilize touch and comfort to teach our kids that they can rely on us," Bayly said.

School Safety Newsletter

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