

## Frequently Asked Questions VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

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### **SAFE SCHOOLS**

**What ideas do you have in reducing bullying and or gang violence in and around schools to create a safe learning environment for students?**

- *For bullying, have a policy in place at the school that parents and students sign.*
- *Have a poster created for all class rooms so it is visible at all times. Bring a committee together to create the poster (i.e. students, custodians, teachers, parents, other school administration, and the School Resource Officer.*
- *Host focus groups at the school and invite parents, school administration and students (with parent approval) to participate. Have one for each group separately. Think about businesses as well in the area to attend the adult meetings. This is a good time to discuss what is going on in the neighborhood, prevention/intervention programs that could be incorporated into trainings for parents in the evening, lesson plans for the students and how businesses can also help make a difference in keeping the community safe.*

### **BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING**

**What steps should I take in case my child is bullied electronically?**

- *Make sure your child is safe and remains safe*
- *Collect evidence*
- *Contact the service provider or content provider*
- *Contact the police WHEN physical threats are involved*
- *When talking to your child, remind them not to respond to the bully, keep a log/journal of attacks*

**How do I handle a situation if I suspect my child is being bullied?**

*Talk to your child and ask if there is anything/one bothering them. Let them know that it is not their fault, nobody deserves to be bullied. Make sure you also know the difference between bullying and teasing. Typically, teasing is NOT intended and may be an isolated event. Bullying and its outcomes ARE always intended and typically repeated. Let them know that they can trust you and that TELLING is not tattling.*

**What tips could we give the students who are being bullied or are considered the bystanders to be proactive?**

*For the child who is being bullied, reinforce them to speak up to the bully, walk away and talk to a trusted adult. Another suggestion would be to stay away where they know places or situations of where the bully might find them. Stay in a group setting.*

*For the bystander, explain that they should support those around them who are being bullied. How would they feel if the role was reversed and they were being bullied. Do something, say something...otherwise, as a bystander, you are encouraging the behavior and you are as much a bully as the person committing the act.*

## **HATE CRIMES PREVENTION**

### **What is the difference between a Hate Crime and a Hate Incident?**

*A hate crime is a criminal act committed primarily because of a person's disability, gender, nationality, race/ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or because of an association with someone from one of these groups. Hate incidents are actions or behaviors motivated by hate or bias.*

### **What state has the highest number of hate groups?**

*California is the highest with 68 groups. Florida is second with 49, and New Jersey has 47.*

### **What trainings are available regarding Hate Crimes Prevention?**

*The Orange County Department of Education works with Orange County Human Relations to provide training for youth, parents, and school staff on Hate Crimes prevention. During these trainings, the presenter covers statistics about hate crimes, shares stories based on media headlines, and provides information on how to report a hate crime. In addition, the presenter shares reasons why reporting a hate crime is important. Supporting legislation is also shared.*

## **TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

### **What is dating abuse?**

*Dating abuse includes any behavior by a dating partner that is used to manipulate, gain control, gain power over someone, make a person feel bad about himself or herself or other people who are close to this person (such as friends or family), or make a person afraid of his or her boyfriend or girlfriend*

### **What are the objectives for parent and staff trainings?**

*To raise awareness of what happens in a typical relationship where one is using various tactics to gain power and control over the other. The presenter talks about verbal abuse, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse, isolation from friends and family, and ultimately physical abuse. Further, presenters talk to parents about how to talk to their teens about healthy and unhealthy relationships. Resources are provided regarding counseling and the Safe Dates curriculum.*

### **What is the goal for teen dating violence prevention trainings?**

*The goal is for students to understand and demonstrate knowledge of behaviors that increase and/or reduce the risk of becoming involved in potentially dangerous relationship. Further, students will know how to react to situations in ways that help to protect his/her health and wellbeing.*

### **What should students be able to do after going through eight weeks of Safe Dates?**

*Analyze warning signs of dating violence and respond appropriately. Analyze appropriate strategies to avoid, resolve, and cope with dating violence. Identify behaviors that decrease the risk of becoming involved in a relationship that has the potential of becoming violent. Recognize the role that drugs and alcohol play in contributing to dating violence. Recognize and avoid situations that increase the risk of abuse.*

## **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

### **Why should schools implement peer conflict mediation programs?**

*Peer mediation programs can improve self-esteem, listening and critical thinking skills, as well as reducing disciplinary actions and fights on campus. Both mediators and disputants learn to*

*communicate more effectively and solve problems without violence. The overall goal of peer mediation is to reduce conflict and help schools become safer places.*

### **What types of conflicts do peer mediators mediate?**

*Peer mediators help their peers deal with disputes ranging from friendship issues, gossip and rumors, name calling, stereotyping and harassment, and bullying behaviors.*

*Peer mediators are not junior counselors and do not deal with conflicts of assault, suicide, drug use, weapon possession, or sexual abuse.*

### **What is the role of a peer mediator?**

*Peer mediators are trained in communication and mediation skills. They do not solve other's problems, but create a safe environment where disputants can tell their story and work on solutions that both parties are comfortable with.*

## **CRISIS RESPONSE NETWORK**

### **What is the Crisis Response Network (CRN)?**

*CRN is a network of trained crisis responders who stand ready to support school communities upon request. CRN was developed to support the school and community efforts with crisis preparedness, response, and recovery. CRN's mission is to provide pre-incident training to school and community-based personnel to build capacity to respond in a structured and effective manner.*

### **What model and or training do CRN members receive?**

*CRN members are certified in at least 32 hours of Crisis Response training, and are required to train and/or respond at least 4 hours each year after certification. This mobilized team employs Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) protocol to support the emotional recovery of students and staff. CISM protocol employs a debriefing model that allows trained crisis responders to quickly assess the emotional state of large numbers of students and staff in a brief period of time. This structured process allows school communities to achieve a healthy recovery from traumatic events at a faster rate.*

### **How do I become a responder for CRN?**

- *Contact Crisis Response Specialist*
- *Complete Responder Application & Verification*
- *Attend Group & Individual Intervention Training (2 x 16 hour modules)*
- *Respond 4 hours each year or attend 4 hours of related training each year*
- *Respond to requests for service*

### **Who are CRN responders and who may receive CRN training?**

*CRN is a multidisciplinary team, and includes school-based personnel and community based professionals including but not limited to: Counselors, Psychologists, Administrators/Managers, Nurses, Clinicians, Social Workers, Marriage & Family Therapists, Teachers, Clergy, and Case Managers.*

### **What other services and training opportunities can CRN provide?**

*CRN provides emergency response and crisis management training for school communities across Orange County. The following training modules are available to schools and potential responders:*

- *Crisis response for schools (CISM)*

- *Crisis response (CISM) including Individual & Group Interventions*
- *Crisis response team development and incident leadership*

**How can I have CRN support my school or organization during a crisis?**

*CRN will support school and youth based organizations upon request.*

**SAFE FROM THE START**

**What are the long-term effects of exposure to violence?**

*By age 12, children exposed to violence are two times more likely to be diagnosed with: Attachment Disorder, depression, anxiety disorder, and oppositional defiant disorder. In addition, children who are exposed to violence are more likely to become juvenile and adult offenders.*

**What are the goals of Safe from the Start?**

1. *Build an improved system of local and county collaboration.*
2. *Assist local communities and families to reduce the number of young children exposed to violence.*
3. *Provide educational resources to parents, guardians, and community members about basic brain development, the effect of violence on child and adolescent behavior.*
4. *Develop a parent workbook in multiple languages (including English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Farsi, and Korean).*

**What is the Vortex of Violence?**

*The Vortex of Violence is a flow of violence down a power differential. Living in this vortex can create violent children and may continue throughout adulthood.*

**What type of training is available for Safe from the Start?**

*There is a full day training of trainers for those who want to become trainers. Further, presentations are provided for students, pregnant teens, parenting minors, parents, teachers, and other school staff. Community presentations have also been provided based on interest.*

**Can the First Impressions DVD be given to anyone who asks?**

*The First Impressions DVD is reserved for trainers. We do not provide this DVD to the public unless there is a prior conversation or training. The follow-up discussion is critical after the DVD is viewed and skilled trainers are best equipped to facilitate discussions regarding the content. The DVD can elicit a strong emotional response for some.*

**CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION**

**What does a training series look like?**

*Ideally, there are five training components:*

- *Introduction presentation to PTA and administrative staff.*
- *Preventing Child Abduction – Provided for parents and staff.*
- *Recognizing Predatory Behaviors – Provided for parents and staff.*
- *RadKIDS Parent Meeting.*

- *RadKIDS Classes.*
- *Instructor Ambassador training with site staff and parent volunteers.*

**What is covered in the preventing child abduction training?**

*Specific steps adults can take to reduce the risk of violence against children. As well as information about what to do and expect if a child goes missing. Topics covered include: The statistics of abuse and abduction, Amber Alert, child ID kits, and what to do if a child goes missing. All attendees receive A Parent's Guide to Prevention.*

**What is covered at the Recognizing Predatory Behaviors training?**

*Provide adults with information about typical tactics and behaviors of child molesters and abductors so that they can better recognize and respond to potentially dangerous people or situations. This training is designed to reduce unnecessary fear about released sex offenders by focusing on what can be done to eliminate opportunities for inappropriate contact with children. Topics covered include: Megan's Law and the National Sex Offender Public Website, the spectrum of sex crimes, how general assumptions about sex crimes help predators and hurt victims, what and how children are targeted, typical grooming behaviors, and creating family and community rules to intervene when someone is demonstrating potentially predatory behaviors.*

**What is the radKIDS objective?**

*The radKIDS objective is to provide educational opportunities for children and parents concerning awareness and personal safety strategies, instilling confidence, and reducing the possibility of adverse physical control and/or harm. Visit [www.radkids.org](http://www.radkids.org) for more information.*

- *Child Abuse Reporting*
- *Suicide prevention, intervention, and response*
- *Grief, Trauma & Loss*
- *Self Harm Awareness*
- *Bullying Prevention*
- *Cyberbullying & Cyberdanger Prevention*