Youth Suicide: Prevention and Intervention

The incidence of youth suicide requires that schools and communities collaborate and increase suicide prevention efforts and that they be prepared to respond if a suicide occurs in order to reduce suicide contagion. This presentation will help school and community mental health personnel increase their understanding of the most common factors in youth suicide. Participants will learn effective strategies to prevent youth suicide and lessons from the aftermath of numerous suicides.

Learning Objectives
At the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:
1. Identify protective factors and primary prevention programs to prevent youth suicide.
2. Identify and dispel key myths about suicide.
3. Describe the relationship between school shootings and suicide and identify the most common motivation for murder/suicide.
4. Describe a comprehensive best practices model for suicide prevention, intervention and postvention in the schools that includes assessment and depression screening.
5. Identify the lessons from a number of legal cases where schools were sued following a youth suicide.

The Presenter
Dr. Scott Poland is a Professor at CPS and the Co-Director of the Suicide and Violence Prevention Office at Nova Southeastern University.

The presenter is an internationally recognized expert on school crisis and youth suicide and has authored five books and numerous chapters on the subject. He previously directed psychological services for a large Texas school system for 24 years and is a past President of the National Association of School Psychologists and a past Prevention Division Director for the American Association of Suicidology. He recently co-authored the Suicide Safer School Plan for the Texas State Health Services Department and Mental Health America Texas. He was also a founding member of the National Emergency Assistance Team and has assisted schools/communities after many tragedies such as school shootings, suicides and acts of terrorism. He is very dedicated to prevention and has testified about the needs of children before the U.S. Congress on four occasions. He has also been involved as an expert witness in numerous legal cases where schools were sued following a crisis.