



Virginia Academy of School Psychologists

Spring 2016 Southwest Regional Workshops

Two Locations!

March 10, 2016
Roanoke, VA

March 11, 2016
Abingdon, VA

TOPICS:

Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management: Building a Collaborative Approach to Identifying, Assessing, and Managing Threatening Behaviors

Dr. Gene Deisinger, SIGMA Threat Management Associates, PA

Workshop Description: Recent mass casualty incidents have raised concerns about both prevention of targeted violence in general and the role of major mental health concerns in particular. In addition, school psychologists and other mental health professionals are increasingly involved in the assessment and management of persons who may engage in threatening and volatile behaviors. Such individuals can be highly disruptive both in educational and work settings and in the community at large. Their behaviors may range from tactics of bullying and intimidation, to stalking and harassment, to acts of violence that devastate a school, workplace, family, or community. Several events from around the world have underscored the ongoing need for effective and collaborative strategies for violence prevention. This session will provide participants with a working understanding of: 1) the nature and process of targeted violence, 2) the relationship between mental illness and violence, 3) a collaborative and multi-disciplinary approach to cases, 4) contextually based assessment of cases, 5) integrated intervention and case management strategies, and 6) increasing community engagement in the safety and well-being of their community.

Learning Objectives:

1. Increase understanding of the nature and process of targeted violence.
2. Enhance understanding of the relationship between mental illness and violence.

3. Enhance awareness of a systematic and collaborative approach to threat assessment and management.

About the Presenter: Dr. Gene Deisinger is a Managing Partner & Co-Founder of SIGMA Threat Management Associates, a professional services firm involving internationally recognized experts in psychology & behavior, law, organizational development, security, and law enforcement. A woman-owned small business, SIGMA provides threat assessment training and consulting services to clients worldwide. SIGMA helps clients assess & manage threatening situations to mitigate risk for violence and enhance the safety and well-being of their communities. SIGMA serves a broad range of clients including educational institutions, governmental agencies, security & protective services agencies, corporations, and public figures.

In February 2015, Dr. Deisinger was retained as the Threat Management Consultant for the Virginia Center for School & Campus Safety. As an independent contractor, Dr. Deisinger provides training and consultation for schools, campuses, and government & law enforcement agencies across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Until his retirement in November 2014, Dr. Deisinger also served as Deputy Chief of Police & Director of Threat Management Services for Virginia Tech, positions to which he had been recruited following the 2007 mass casualty incident at that campus. As executive officer for the Virginia Tech Police Department, Major Deisinger provided leadership for law enforcement operations to support a safe and secure campus environment. In addition to his command responsibilities with VTPD, Dr. Deisinger also managed the university's multi-disciplinary threat management functions.

Dr. Deisinger earned his doctorate in psychology from Iowa State University. He is a licensed psychologist, a certified health service provider in psychology, and, until his retirement, a certified law enforcement officer.

Dr. Deisinger was a founding member of the Iowa State University Critical Incident Response Team, a multi-disciplinary team that conducted pro-active planning and coordinated institutional responses during crisis situations. Dr. Deisinger developed the threat management program and served as the primary threat manager for Iowa State from the team's inception in 1994, until accepting his position at Virginia Tech in 2009. He has personally managed threat cases and protective operations for a broad range of organizations, governmental dignitaries, public figures, and members of the university community.

In 2008, Dr. Deisinger (along with principal co-author & SIGMA co-founder, Dr. Marisa Randazzo) published *The Handbook for Campus Threat Assessment & Management Teams*. The Handbook has been recognized by the American National Standards Institute as exemplifying best practices for implementing and operating campus threat assessment and management teams. Several campuses have adopted the *Handbook* as an operating guide for their violence prevention efforts.

Just Breathe: An Introduction to Mindfulness

Laura Leonard, Roanoke City Public Schools

Workshop Description: As educators, we are all too aware that stress interferes with daily functioning in a variety of ways, including memory and retention of information, appropriate regulation of emotions, and overall health and well-being, all of which have a great impact on student success in life and in school. Across the nation, school systems are taking preventative actions to help alleviate the impact of stress and equip students with simple techniques and strategies to assist them in being more successful, productive and empowered learners and citizens. Such practices, commonly known as “mindfulness,” can lead to improvements in all areas of academic, social, and emotional functioning, by teaching children (and adults!) to better take control of their thoughts and actions, and bring a sense of mindful intention and purpose to what they do and experience. By learning strategies such as relaxation and focusing one’s attention more directly on a task or feeling, students become more receptive to learning and processing information and emotions. They are able to apply more critical thinking skills to help with academic demands, as well as important social behaviors such as empathy and compassion for self and others. Many of the schools and classrooms that have implemented such curriculums have indicated both teacher and student satisfaction in the programs, as well as a decrease in behavior problems with a concurrent increase in academic achievement.

About the Presenter: Laura Leonard is a school psychologist in Roanoke City Public Schools who is dedicated to supporting the social, emotional, and academic learning of all students. In addition to providing school-based psychological services, she also teaches mindfulness and yoga to teachers and students, offering a more holistic approach to handling stress and challenges.

Agenda

8:30a.m. Registration and Networking

9:00a.m. Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management: Building a Collaborative Approach to Identifying, Assessing, and Managing Threatening Behaviors

12:00p.m. Lunch on your own

1:30p.m. Just Breathe: An Introduction to Mindfulness

*5 CPD Credits will be awarded for attendance (NASP and Board of Psychology approved credits)

**Inclement weather: Participants will be notified via email if the workshops are postponed or cancelled due to inclement weather.*

**Refunds will be offered if participants are unable to attend the workshop.*

Locations

**Both Sites are Handicap Accessible*

ROANOKE: WDBJ-7 Community Room

2807 Hershberger Rd. Roanoke, VA 24017

Northbound on I-581, take 2nd Hershberger Rd. exit - at 1st traffic light turn right, pass through 2nd light (very short distance) turn right into WDBJ Guest Parking

*Please Note: Food and Beverages are not permitted in the Community Room

ABINGDON: Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator, Inc.

851 French Moore, Jr. Blvd. Suite 200 Abingdon, VA 24210

From Roanoke area:

I-81 South to Exit 14, Turn right at bottom of exit ramp, Go approx. 0.2 miles

From Knoxville area:

I-81 North to Exit 14, At bottom of ramp merge into traffic and go approx. 0.3 miles

Then: Turn right onto Virginia Highlands Community College campus & Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center

Continue to bear right on the access road past SWVHEC facility. The Incubator will be the next building on the left, up on a hill.

REGISTRATION

Please complete this form and return to the address below by Thursday, March 3, 2016

NAME _____

Address _____

Email _____

School District _____

(check one)

- Member \$20
- Non-Member \$40
- Student \$10

(check one)

- Roanoke Workshop 3/10/16
- Abingdon Workshop 3/11/16

Please send completed registration form and CHECKS ONLY to:

**Christina Gibson, Ed.S.
VASP SW Region Rep.
4782 Pleasant Hill Road
Rocky Mount, VA 24151**

NO PURCHASE ORDERS PLEASE

**Make checks payable to VASP
For questions, concerns please contact Christina Gibson at
(540)915-4311 or by email: cgibson@rcps.info**



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VASP is approved by the National Association of School Psychologists to offer professional development for school psychologists. VASP maintains responsibility for the program."