Evidence-based Risk Assessment and Intervention for Suicidal Patients

September 6, 2018
9:00am-11:00am
Presenter: Jill Holm-Denoma, Ph.D., L.P.

Overview:
This workshop is designed to help clinicians increase their effectiveness when conducting suicide risk assessments and associated interventions with clients. We will begin by having an interactive discussion during which attendees will be asked to identify concerns they have with regard to suicide risk assessment and intervention. Common myths about suicide will be highlighted, and a comprehensive theory of suicide (i.e., the Interpersonal-Psychological Theory of Suicidal Behavior; Joiner, 2005) will be presented. Next, evidence-based risk factors for suicide will be identified. After learning a semi-structured suicide risk assessment process, attendees will work with partners to conduct mock risk assessment interviews during a role play exercise. Finally, attendees will learn appropriate intervention approaches based upon each client’s suicide risk level. In small groups, they will apply their knowledge by creating intervention plans for “clients” whose suicide risk factors are described in vignettes.

Learning Objectives:
1. Feel more comfortable and confident when working with suicidal patients
2. Distinguish between myths and truths surrounding suicidal behaviors
3. Describe evidence-based risk factors for suicidal behavior
4. Conduct an evidence-based assessment of clients’ risk for suicidal behavior
5. Create and carry out evidence-based risk reduction plans

Biography:
Dr. Holm-Denoma is an active researcher and clinician who studies suicide and its prevention. Dr. Holm-Denoma earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the Florida State University under the mentorship of Thomas Joiner, Ph.D., an eminent suicide researcher and clinician. She additionally completed an APA-accredited internship at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center. She is currently a Clinical Professor at the University of Denver and a clinical supervisor at the Clinic for Child and Family Psychology where she trains graduate students to provide evidence-based assessment and therapy. In addition, she has a private therapy practice at which she regularly sees clients at high risk for suicide. Dr. Holm-Denoma has also co-authored many peer-reviewed journal articles on suicide.