One-Day Conference on Dealing with the Potential of School Violence: Security, Interventions, and Psychological Issues

Sponsored by UNH Professional Development & Training

Friday, December 6, 2013
9:10 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
400 Commercial St., Manchester, NH
$199 • .5 CEUs • CRN 136555
(includes lunch/breaks)

Approved by NASW NH Chapter for 5 Category 1 CE Credit, Auth #2998

In recent years, we have experienced what seems to be an increase in violence in schools, whether the violence originates from within the school or by outside individuals. While there has been much discussion about ways to keep schools safe and create secure environments, there is still much to learn about these perplexing and very concerning incidents. This one-day conference will provide you with an opportunity to meet in breakout groups to focus discussion on a particular aspect that interests you.

Keynote Address

Lockdown: Security Responses to Violence in Our Schools

Columbine and Sandy Hook are two names that need no further description for us to know that we are talking about a school massacre. Historically, we have considered schools to be among the safest places in our society. But our confidence level in that notion has been shaken by the episodes we’ve seen during recent years. As a result of the violence that has occurred and the concern of more violence, schools have been provoked to respond with greater security and safety measures than ever before. Schools have long had discipline policies for scuffles and disruptions, but now they have implemented security policies, like cockpits in airplanes, in an attempt to harden the school site and protect those within from breaches to the schoolhouse gate. This keynote will look at school responses to violence and how policies to protect against violence from the outside impact the school environment inside.

Keynote Speaker:

Todd A. DeMitchell, Ed.D., is a professor in UNH’s Education Department and the Justice Studies Program. He was named Distinguished Professor of the University in 2010. He completed his post-doctorate at Harvard University in school law and policy, and published five books on school law and labor relations in education plus more than 150 book chapters, law review articles, peer reviewed journal articles, professional education articles, and case and policy commentaries.

Prior to joining the faculty at UNH, he spent 18 years as a teacher, principal, and superintendent in the California public schools.

Breakout Sessions

The following sessions will be repeated. Choose one to attend in the morning and one in the afternoon.

The Violent Brain

Our understanding of the violent brain has advanced significantly in recent years. Many psychological models...
Risk Assessment with Children and Adolescents

This session will give you an overview of a practical methodology of assessing violence risk in children and adolescents. General methods of assessment, including clinical, empirically guided clinical, and actuarial approaches, will be reviewed. We will cover the elements of a good assessment, including personal history, collateral data, diagnostic tests, and assessment of risk. In addition we’ll look at methods of describing risk level and developing case-specific interventions. You’ll become familiar with structured diagnostic and risk assessment instruments and use of diagnostic inventories; and you’ll discuss ethical issues in informed consent, diagnostics and risk assessment.

Presenter: Eric G. Mart, PhD, ABPP (Forensic), is a psychologist in private practice based in Portsmouth, NH. He received his doctorate in school psychology from Kefka Graduate School of Yeshiva University. In addition, Dr. Mart holds degrees from New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont, Dr. Mart specializes in forensic and psycho-educational assessment and has provided psychological assessments, expert testimony, and consultation for courts throughout the United States and Canada.

Transforming Turmoil; Creating Calm and Peaceable Classrooms

There are times when creating a calm and peaceable classroom can be a challenge. In this session, the presenter, who was called upon to assist after the Sandy Hook tragedy, will share techniques from her book, “Creating the Peaceable Classroom: A 21st-Century Wellness Guide for Teachers, Students and Parents”, that she shared with K-6 teachers in Newtown, CT, after that event. These techniques will help you and your students transform turmoil into calm, lethargy into energy. You’ll explore techniques such as breathing patterns, yoga, qigong (Chinese energy exercise) spirals and labyrinths, to name a few. You’ll leave with a set of self-care tools empowering you and your students to manage your state-of-being as needed—moving from hurried or anxious to relaxed and at-ease, from lethargic or depressed to energized and uplifted—becoming more peaceful, so all can function more effectively. Even in the absence of a violent incident, these techniques can be useful.

Presenter: Sandy Bothmer, M.S., is a former teacher who presents stress management techniques from her book, “Creating the Peaceable Classroom,” to all in the school-wide community. She also teaches Creative Kids Yoga® for children in the Nashua area, Kripalu yoga for adults, and has a private practice in energy wellness from Ferkauf Graduate School of Yeshiva University.

Interventions: What Educators, Counselors, Law Enforcement, and Parents Can Do

While it is impossible to predict if or when a violent incident will affect the lives of children and adolescents, whether it is in a school setting or a public place, there are preventative actions that educators, counselors, law enforcement professionals, and parents can take that will help them identify potentially violent youth before a violent situation occurs, as well as interventions that will help children or youth who may become victims of a violent incident. This session will look at prevention and intervention from both points of view—for youth who may become violent and for youth who may become victims of violence.

Presenter: Ellen Cohn, Ph.D., is Professor of Psychology and Coordinator of the Justice Studies Program at UNH. As a social psychologist, she has done extensive research on how people develop attitudes toward the law and decide to engage in rule-violating behavior. Currently she is working on a National Science Foundation-funded New Hampshire Youth Study, a 7-year longitudinal study of adolescents and the predictors of delinquency. She has written extensively on issues related to violence and legal socialization.

4 Ways to Register

On the Web: Go to www.learn.unh.edu/schoolviolence
By Phone: Call (603) 862-7380 with credit card or e-check information.
By Mail: Form below with payment.
By Fax: Fax with credit card info to (603) 862-7381.

Forms of Payment

Check or e-check (payable to UNH), VISA, MC

Cost and Refund Policy

Conference cost is $199 and includes lunch, breaks, and materials. Refunds, less a $25 processing fee, will be given if written cancellation is received five business days prior to the conference.

For More Information

About the Conference: Call (603) 862-1739
About Registration: Call (603) 862-7380

Location

The conference will be held at UNH Manchester on 400 Commercial St. For info about the location call (603) 641-4350.

Please Note: Your registration cannot be processed until full payment is received, so request funding early from your school or organization.