

Press Release



[for immediate release]

Youth Suicide Prevention the Topic of Fall 2010 Series of Webinars from Well Aware™

National experts offer insight on suicide as the third-leading cause of death for America's youths ages 15-24

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CHEYENNE, WYOMING—AUGUST 4, 2010—Three of America's leading experts on youth suicide will be featured this fall in a new series of interactive webinars from Well Aware™, a national prevention program for school administrators and education policymakers. This series of three webinars includes school-based strategies for suicide prevention, fundamental information on helping youths who have lost a peer to suicide, and crisis response for schools and communities in the wake of a youth dying by suicide.

This free webinar series is brought to professionals throughout the nation by the Wyoming Dept. of Health, with federal funding made possible, in part, by the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, grant SM57386 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

WHAT: Well Aware Webinar Series on Youth Suicide Prevention

WHEN: Autumn 2010, all from 3:30-4:30 p.m. ET

>> **Sep. 29th:** SCHOOLS AND SUICIDE: Latest and Best School-Based Strategies, with Dr. Madelyn S. Gould

>> **Oct. 12th:** THOSE LEFT BEHIND: Helping Students Who Have Lost a Peer to Suicide, with Dr. David A. Brent

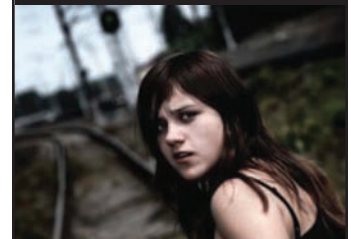
>> **Nov. 3rd:** CRISIS RESPONSE: When a Student Dies by Suicide, with Dr. Scott Poland

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Wed., Sep. 29th, 3:30-4:30 p.m. E:
SCHOOLS AND SUICIDE: Latest and Best School-Based Strategies with Dr. Madelyn S. Gould



Tue., Oct. 12th, 3:30-4:30 p.m. E:
THOSE LEFT BEHIND: Helping Students Who Have Lost a Peer to Suicide with Dr. David A. Brent



Wed., Nov. 3rd, 3:30-4:30 p.m. E:
CRISIS RESPONSE: When a Student Dies by Suicide with Dr. Scott Poland

WHERE: Participants can register for the web events by visiting www.wellawaresp.org/webinars.php.

WHO: Webinar attendees have a unique opportunity to dialogue online with three of the nation's top authorities in youth suicide. The featured experts, each with more than 25 years of work in prevention of suicide, are:



>> **Madelyn S. Gould, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, professor of clinical epidemiology in psychiatry at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, whose pioneering research in youth suicide prevention informs best-practice programs delivered in schools and other community settings.



>> **David A. Brent, M.D.**, academic chief of child and adolescent psychiatry at Western Psychiatric Institute & Clinic and professor of psychiatry, pediatrics and epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, whose research and clinical work has broken new ground in the understanding and treatment of youths at risk of suicide.



>> **Scott Poland, Psy.D.**, with the Office of Suicide and Violence Prevention within the Center for Psychological Studies at Nova Southeastern University, whose widespread influence on research-based crisis intervention has effected positive changes in school systems across the nation.

This webinar series is free and open to any adult who interacts with or influences policy affecting youths, such as school administrators, community youth services providers, student services personnel, school board members, education policymakers, community prevention coalitions, law enforcement officers, and juvenile justice personnel.

Previous Well Aware webinars include *Youth Suicide Clusters: What you must know to recognize and respond to a youth suicide contagion*; *Myths and Facts: Suicide in adolescents*; *Protective Factors: Boosting resiliency in youths*; and *The Laramie Schools – Youth Alternatives Partnership for Student Progress: Capacity building through stronger school-community alliances*. All are available online at www.wellawaresp.org/webinars.php.

In addition to free online seminars, Well Aware provides information and resources on the role schools and communities have in suicide prevention, with data about the tragedy of youth suicide, its economic burden, and suicide as a preventable public health threat.

About Well Aware

*Well Aware is a multi-faceted strategic communications program to better inform and engage education administrators, policymakers and influencers in youth suicide prevention. With content featuring evidence-based programs and best practices in the national suicide-prevention arena, Well Aware focuses on the link between emotional wellbeing and academic achievement in children. Located online at www.wellawaresp.org, Well Aware is a program of the PDV Foundation, Inc., a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to advance communications in mental health and social services, with focus on suicide as a preventable public-health threat in our nation, one that claims 50 percent more lives each year than homicide. Publisher of *Advancing Suicide Prevention* magazine, the PDV Foundation is online at www.pdvfoundation.org. For more on youth suicide and the role of schools, see the January 2006 issue of *Advancing Suicide Prevention* magazine at www.advancingsp.org/current_issue.php.*