Salem Keizer School District

Suicide Risk Assessment System

Community Witness Interview - Level 1

**Step 1:** **Directions for the Interviewer:**

**This interview is only to be conducted by an administrator or school counselor as a supplement to the Level 1 Assessment Protocol. Address the following questions through an interview or open-ended inquiry with the community witness (who is/are involved or may have information about a student with suicidal ideations or behaviors).**

**Do NOT ask the community witness to read and complete the questions by themselves.**

**The following is an assessment of current circumstances and as these circumstances change, so too does the risk potential. Therefore, review the results of this interview while being mindful of supervision, intervention, and the passage of time. Each question is a prompt for exploration of the circumstances that may involve the escalation of risk.**

**An equity lens has been applied to the safety and support response process. The lens identified concerns regarding underserved and underrepresented populations that lack confidence in support systems and, thus, tend to underreport. Be sure to approach information sources with cultural sensitivity and explore all leads. Provide assurance that safety, inclusion, and connection are the focus. The lens also identified concerns for bias toward underserved populations and minoritized groups that may lead to overreaction or unnecessary discipline. Focus on facts and behavior unique to the situation. Avoid assumptions and/or personalizing language and behavior.**

**Student Name:**       **Student ID#:**  **School:**       **Grade:**

**Community Witness Name:**       **Contact Info:**       **Date:**

**Relationship/Length of Relationship to Student:**

**Administrator’s Name**:       **Interviewer Name/Role**:

**Reason for Witness Interview:**

**Step 2:** **Ask the following questions through conversation or direct inquiry.**

**Address the community witness and describe the perceived suicidal concern that has brought this situation to your attention. Explain our obligation and responsibility to assess and provide support in all situations that may be dangerous for the student, other students, and staff**.

1. I understand you know about a student who may have the intent to hurt themselves, what exactly was said (written, posted, drawn, filmed, or otherwise communicated)?
2. Has the student shared with you about their reason for wanting to die by suicide?
3. Do you know if they have a plan? [ ]  No [ ]  Yes If yes, do you know what their plan is?
4. Do you know if the student(s) has access to or are they trying to acquire any weapons, medications, or other means to hurt themselves?
5. How concerned are you that they will follow through with their plan to die by suicide?
6. Have you reached out to the parents/guardians, family members, or community organizations regarding your concerns? [ ]  No [ ]  Yes (Please explain response)
7. Are you concerned that the student is planning to hurt anyone else? [ ]  No [ ]  Yes If yes, please explain

**(If yes, talk with administrator regarding initiating a Level 1 Student Threat Assessment)**

1. What are some positives things happening in their life? What are the student’s reasons for living?
2. Is there anything else we should know about this situation? Are you aware of any difficulties this student might be experiencing? *An example might be recent changes in stressors such as feelings of loss, personal crisis (such as pregnancy), family turmoil, sense of failure or recent victimization (abuse or bullying).*
3. Do you believe the student and the family is open to help or know if they have sought out help? [ ]  No [ ]  Yes If yes, please explain