



When Conversation Turns to Suicide Training March 27 and March 28, 9:30am to 4:30pm in South Hadley, Massachusetts!

Applications accepted on a rolling basis until training is full.

January 01, 2017

Dear Potential Applicant:

We are writing you about an opportunity to attend a “When Conversation Turns to Suicide” training facilitated by Caroline White and Sean Donovan. This training is based on the principles of our ‘Alternatives to Suicide’ groups and the wisdom of so many people who themselves have struggled with how and if to stay in this world. The training focuses on sitting with difficult conversations, exploring our own feelings and fears that rise up when trying to do so, and supporting those who are struggling to make meaning of and move through those darkest times.

This training is open to providers, people working in peer roles, friends and family members, and anyone else interested in learning more. We’ve had great responses to the trainings we’ve offered so far. Here are a few comments from previous participants:

- *“It was so very good it inspired me to be involved with this process - a truly important and needed training. It should be mandatory.”*
- *“It was amazing. It gave me confidence to handle difficult conversations with compassion and curiosity.”*
- *“Excellent, really liked the fact the facilitators were very personal in sharing their experiences and how we practiced the techniques and were able to discuss each one after practice!! Thanks so much this training was very helpful.”*

The Alternatives to Suicide approach was developed by the Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community (RLC) in 2009 as one of the only peer-to-peer approaches that truly focuses on the topic of suicide rather than assessment and risk. Trainings and workshops on this approach have also been offered in Vermont, Connecticut, New York, Wisconsin, and beyond (including France and Australia!). We hope that you will consider joining us for this great two-day training opportunity.

Sincerely,

The Western Mass RLC

PLEASE NOTE: Although this training is based on the ‘Alternatives to Suicide’ approach and includes information drawn from that, this training is **not** the same as the three-day Alternatives to Suicide Facilitator training and is not intended to prepare people to facilitate groups.

We believe that the journey leads to healing and hope

Under the umbrella of The Western Mass Training Consortium



Western Mass
Recovery Learning Community

187 High Street, Suite 203
Holyoke, MA 01040
TTY/voice (413) 539-5941
Toll free (866) 641-2853
Fax (413) 536-5466
www.westernmassrlc.org
info@westernmassrlc.org

Training Details:

ACCEPTANCE TO THE TRAINING: Our hope is to have a relatively balanced group that includes a mix of providers and people coming from other parts of the community. We will accept initial applications until Monday, February 20, and will notify participants by Monday, February 27 if we are able to offer them a spot. Additional applicants may apply as space allows and will be accepted on a rolling basis. **Please Note:** We ALWAYS notify people whether or not they have been accepted. If you do not hear back, it may be that we did not receive your application or you missed an e-mail from us, so please be in touch.

TRAINING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATION: Dates for the training are scheduled for Monday, March 27 and Tuesday, March 28. Each day will run from 9:30am to 4:30pm. Reading homework may be assigned ahead of time and/or during the class. The training will be located at the South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal Street, South Hadley, Massachusetts. **Attendance both days is required to complete the training.**

TRAINING PREREQUISITES: The only pre-requisite is your interest in and openness to this topic, and a willingness to stretch, explore and consider different perspectives.

COST: There is no cost for this training. However, participants are responsible for their own food and travel expenses as applicable.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFO: This training is NOT intended to prepare you to facilitate Alternatives to Suicide groups. (Ask us about our three-day group facilitator training if you're interested in that!) It is also not intended as a 'train-the-trainer' model. (I.E., Taking this training is not intended to prepare you to facilitate this training for others, although we encourage everyone to share what they learned on an informal basis with friends, family and co-workers.) If you attend, you should expect that the group will include a mixture of people in varied roles. This training is designed to challenge and encourage creative thought about different belief systems, and so openness and genuine curiosity are –as noted above - a must!

Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis

This training was developed, in part, through support from Tapestry Health, The Massachusetts Department of mental Health and the National Empowerment Center

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Application for ‘When the Conversation Turns to Suicide’

We will prioritize applicants who:

- Are willing and able to attend both days of the training
- Demonstrate a clear interest in exploring the topic of suicide

Contact Information (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY)

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip Code:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Agency or organization where you work (if applicable):

Application (Please feel free to attach separate sheets if necessary)

1. Please indicate which of the following applies to you: (circle as many as apply)

- a. I work in a peer support role (please be sure you’ve listed your organization above)
- b. I work at a provider organization as a clinician, manager, direct support worker or other traditional role (please be sure you’ve listed your organization above)
- c. I work as a clinician or other mental health professional at an independent or group practice
- d. I am a part of a community group or organization not specifically related to mental health (church, synagogue or other religious community, housing or employment services, school administrators, etc!...Please be sure you’ve listed your organization above!)
- e. I am a friend or family member of someone(s) who has struggled with thoughts of suicide
- f. I am a suicide attempt survivor and/or have struggled substantially with suicidal thoughts
- g. Other (please describe):

2. I am able to attend all three training sessions to be held on Monday, March 27 and Tuesday, March 28, 2017 from 9:30am to 4:30pm

Yes No (Circle one. If no, I will not be able to attend _____)

3. Please initial that you have read and understand each statement:

Initials

_____ I understand that I need to complete both days to successfully complete the training.

_____ I understand that this is NOT the same as the 'Alternatives to Suicide' group facilitator training (although it is based on the same approach), and is NOT intended to prepare me to facilitate 'Alternatives to Suicide' groups.

_____ I understand that if I write illegibly my application may be discarded. (Especially if we can't read your contact information!)

4. Briefly describe your interest in this training, and what you most hope to get out of it.

5. What are some topics you particularly hope are covered?

6. Tell us a little bit about yourself. What are some of your accomplishments, interests, dreams? What are the qualities you most appreciate about yourself?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application.

Western Mass RLC
 Attn: Caroline
 187 High St., Suite 303
 Holyoke, MA 01040
 Email: info@westernmassrlc.org

The training is presented by the Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community