

Summer 2018

# Psych Perspectives



A publication of the West Virginia School Psychologists Association

## Recently Released Threat Assessment Guidelines

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the United States Secret Service at the National Threat Assessment Center, 2018, released [\*Enhancing School Safety Using A Threat Assessment Model, An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence.\*](#)

This document outlines the process to develop a comprehensive targeted violence prevention plan. This includes details regarding the following steps that should be taken by school teams:

Step 1-Establish a multidisciplinary threat assessment team

Step 2-Define prohibited and concerning behaviors

Step 3- Create a central reporting mechanism

Step 4-Determine the threshold for law enforcement intervention

Step 5-Establish assessment procedures

Step 6-Develop risk management options

Step 7-Create and promote safe schools climates

Step 8-Create training for all stakeholders

Included in this document NTAC has identified the following themes to investigate as part of the risk assessment:

- the student's motives and goals
- unusual, concerning, and threatening communications
- inappropriate interests in weapons, mass shootings, school shooters, etc.
- access to weapons
- stressful events, such as set-backs, challenges, losses
- impact of emotional or developmental issues
- evidence of desperation, hopelessness, suicidal thoughts or behaviors
- whether the student views violence as an option to solve problems
- whether others are concerned about the student's statements or behaviors
- capacity to carry out an attack
- evidence of planning for an attack
- consistency between the student's statements and actions

- protective factors such as positive or prosocial influences or events

Welcome New WVSPA Board Members

Please join WVSPA in welcoming our **newly elected members** to the WVSPA Executive Board. Their terms are scheduled for July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020.

Lori Bailey: **Region B**

Lauren Winter: **Region D**

Elise Moore: **Secretary**

We would additionally like to thank Susie Miller, Krystal Stollings, and Becky Wendell for their service in these roles over the past two years!

**Newly appointed positions** include:

**GPR:** Miranda Wilson

**Awards:** Kim Legg

In addition, the following positions were **created and appointed** at the Spring 2018 Executive board meeting:

**Social Justice:** Britainey Cooper

**Crisis Team Liason(s):** Krystal Stollings and Rebecca Wendell

## *Save the Date*

### **WVSPA Future Conferences**

**Fall 2018: October 15-16, 2018,  
Embassy Suites, Charleston, WV**

- Phil Chalmers – full day workshop on “Why Teens Kill” and violence in schools

[Registration](#) will open to WVSPA members the week of July 16, 2018. Register early to secure your spot.

[Registration](#) will open to the public the week of August 6, 2018.

- Dr. Linda Kanan – full day workshop on threat assessments including report writing and communication of results

**Spring 2019: April 25-26, 2019,  
Location TBD**

- Dr. Celine Saulnier – full day workshop on Autism evaluations, report writing, and communication of results
- Dr. Milton Dehn – full day workshop on Patterns of Strength Weakness in Assessment and report writing

## **WVSPA in the News**

**Rebecca Wendell, WVSPA board member and school psychologist in Jackson County, was recently quoted in an article in *The Nation*. To view this article, follow this [link](#).**