# The Safety Planning Intervention in Suicide Prevention

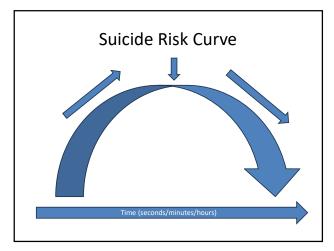
Mark Margolis, Psychologist MA, Suicide Prevention Coordinator

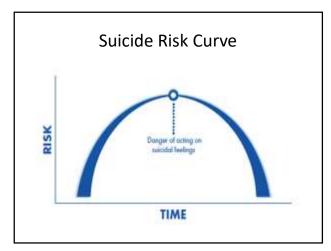


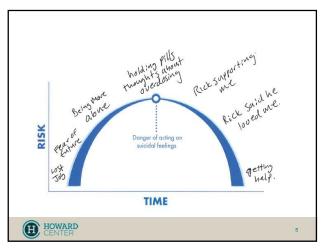
1

### Assessment

- Person tells their story about the most recent suicidal crisis
  - What happened before, during and after?









### 1) Warning Signs

- Immediately precede the crisis
  - -Thoughts/thought processes/images
  - -Feelings
  - -Behavior
  - -Situations/activating events

7



### 2) Internal Coping Strategies

- Things the person can do without contacting someone else
- "What have you done in the past to take your mind off your troubles, even for a little while?"

8



## 3) People and Social Settings that Provide Distraction

- The goal is distraction and (or) feeling connected
  - Not for meant for talking about the crisis
- "Who helps you take your mind off your problems at least for a short while?"

## 4) People Whom I Can Ask for Help During a Crisis

- · Someone specific to go to for help
  - "Who do you think you can confide in?"
  - "Who do you go to for help?"

10

10

## 5) Professionals or Agencies to Contact in a Crisis

- Contacted if prior steps are not effective
- At least one should be available 24/7

11

11

### 6) Making the Environment Safe

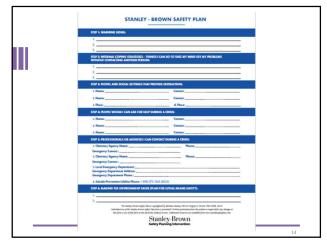
- Always ask about firearms regardless of whether this is identified as a method in assessment
- Ask person which means they would consider in a crisis
  - "What ideas do you have about how to make the environment feel safer?"

### **Implementing the Safety Plan**

- "How likely is it that you will use this plan when you notice the warning signs?"
- Identify and problem solve obstacles
- Provide person a copy of the plan and keep a copy to be filed
- Review and revise periodically: Was it used?
   Did it work?

13

13



14

### References

 Stanley, B., & Brown, G. K. (2012). Safety planning intervention: a brief intervention to mitigate suicide risk. Cognitive and behavioral practice, 19(2), 256-264.