



NEWS RELEASE

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MCPS hosts Applied Suicide Intervention Skills (ASIST) Training for Counselors, Psychologists and Social Workers

On Wednesday and Thursday, March 9-10, 2016, Missoula County Public Schools is hosting training for MCPS counselors, school psychologists, and social workers as well as staff from surrounding feeder districts and private schools in advanced methods for providing suicide first aid.

The training is made possible through the support of the Office of Public Instruction (OPI), Missoula County, and United Way of Missoula County. Kristie Scheel, Coordinator of the Suicide Prevention Network for the Missoula City County Health Department is leading the two-day session.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) is for everyone 16 or older—regardless of prior experience—who wants to be able to provide suicide first aid. Shown by major studies to significantly reduce suicidality, the ASIST model teaches effective intervention skills while helping to build suicide prevention networks in the community.

Developed in 1983 and regularly updated to reflect improvements in knowledge and practice, ASIST is the world's leading suicide intervention workshop. During the two-day interactive session, participants learn to intervene and help prevent the immediate risk of suicide. Over 1,000,000 people have taken the workshop, and studies have proven that the ASIST method helps reduce suicidal feelings for those at risk.

“Providing training for our staff in this area is directly tied to our goals in the MCPS strategic plan and the Graduation Matters Missoula strategic plan,” commented Karen Allen, MCPS Executive Regional Director. “We know that we have to support healthy students and provide assistance for their physical and mental well-being if we want them to be able to achieve academically and in their lives beyond school.”

The training will take place at the Missoula Federal Credit Union at 3600 Brooks Street from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For additional information or to schedule an interview, contact Carol Ewen, MCPS RTI/MBI Coordinator at 406-370-9671 or via email at cewen@mcps.k12.mt.us.

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