***Risk Indicators Associated with Targeted Violence: A guide for parents and educators***

**The following is a partial list of actions, behaviors and circumstances that may indicate greater risk for targeted violence. Please be mindful of this list as you monitor students and the situations they are involved in. If your concerns increase you may contact School Safety and Prevention GRANT COUNTY ESD (541) 575-1349 for further consultation. If you have concerns of imminent danger, contact Law Enforcement immediately by dialing 911.**

**1. Has there been a move toward a more serious threat of violence?**

Violence is aggressive behavior that is intended to, or results in, serious or lethal injury.

**2. Has there been threatening communications suggesting a potential violent attack?**

Communications may include verbal expressions, artwork, email, internet messaging, texting, written language exercises or any other medium of communication. A communication can also be made by indirect, veiled or casual references to potentially harmful events, ominous warnings, or references to previously occurring violent events such as school or community shootings.

**3. Are there indications of a specific target or targets?**

Is there an ongoing consideration or focus on a particular person, group or student body?

**4. Are there indications of a motive, goal or justification for a serious or lethal attack?**

While there can certainly be many motives for acting out violently or aggressively, the most common is the need to establish or reestablish control, often disguised as revenge or vendetta for lost love or humiliation and the desire to prove bravery after making a threat or taking a dare. Pay close attention to motive themes of loss, being wronged or excessive anger.

**5. Are there indications of behavior that increase the possibility of violence occurring? Such indications may include a plan, acquiring weapons, rehearsing or practicing the attack, scheduling the attack or other preparations.**

• A plan to carry out a targeted act of aggression against a specific group or individual. A plan would have a sequence of actions necessary for its success. The more plausible the plan, the greater the risk.

• The acquisition of a weapon, the attempted acquisition of a weapon or the research about how to acquire a weapon. If the threat is the use of physical force to the point of serious or lethal injury, then the physical force is the weapon. • The rehearsal of the event or a similar event. Rehearsal is like simulation or practice. Rehearsal can be indicated through art, fantasy games, writing or film projects. It can also be indicated by the use of movies, internet sites, or video games that have themes and sequences of violence that can serve as a kind of simulation or practice. However, it must be noted that the use of such games or files as entertainment does not lead or cause students to act out violently, their use is only attack-related behavior when it serves as rehearsal or practice.

• Scheduling an attack. Scheduling the act can be indicated through vague communication or actually noted in clear detail. Sometimes the schedule is flexible, awaiting a triggering event (teasing, rejection, loss) that further justifies the violence and locks it in as the only solution.

**6. Are actions and behaviors consistent with communications?**

If threats are made but not accompanied by attack-related behaviors, motives or a specific target(s) consistent with that threat, then the risk decreases.

**7. Is there peer collaboration?**

Are peers aware of, or concerned about, a potential attack? Are peers encouraging the attack?

**8. Are there indications of hopelessness, stressfully overwhelming or desperate situations (either real or perceived)?**

A person with low coping strategies or alternatives may consider violence to be the only option available to solve problems.

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**9. Are there indications of suicidal ideation?**

This question examines the presence or history of suicidal ideas, gestures, references and intent. The wish to die, be killed or commit suicide combined with a threat to harm others increases risk, especially if the self-destructive behavior is the last part of a plan to harm others and carry out revenge or justice. If there is a risk of suicide, contact guardian and seek out advice and assessment from a doctor, mental health professional, your local emergency room or the mobile crisis center 541-575-1466.

**10. Are there personality or behavioral traits, family dynamics, school system issues or social dynamics that lead to a more vulnerable and potentially dangerous situation?**

Reckless and vindictive behavior, family dysfunction, academic failure and social crisis are all risk factors that can aggravate an already at-risk situation.

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