TO: Superintendents, Principals and School Safety Stakeholders

FROM: Rob Evans, VT School Safety Liaison Officer and Sunni Erikson, Vermont Emergency Management

RE: SAVE THE DATE - Behavioral Threat Assessment (***Awareness Level***) Training

Vermont’s Agency of Education, Department of Public Safety and the Vermont School Safety Center are pleased to announce a new ***Behavioral Threat Assessment*** (BTA) training initiative designed to prevent active shooter incidents, stalking and other targeted violence in our schools and school districts. This training will be provided by SIGMA Threat Management Associates. To learn more about SIGMA Threat Management Associates, visit their website here: <http://www.sigmatma.com/>

An effective, functioning threat assessment team is a critical component of keeping your school safe and preventing violence. Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management provides a proactive, evidence-based approach for identifying individuals who may pose a threat and for providing interventions before a violent incident occurs. This training introduces the concept of threat assessment and outlines how a threat assessment program functions in a school setting.

This training presents the process of how a threat assessment team identifies, assesses, and manages threats. The training also includes guidance and resources for forming and implementing a team in your school or district.

This one-day (***awareness level***) course teaches participants how to assess threats and other disturbing behavior, and take steps to reduce risk and prevent harm.  The class covers the following topics:

* Facts about targeted violence
* Components of effective K-12 threat assessment programs
* Multi-disciplinary teams and membership
* Steps in the threat assessment process:
  + Screening cases for threat assessment
  + Gathering information from multiple sources
  + Analyzing information and making an assessment
  + Developing and implementing case management plans
* Strategies to encourage reporting and enhance school climate
* Tabletop exercises that allow participants to practice using threat assessment procedures

**Prior to this training, we strongly encourage schools and school districts to identify potential members of your BTA teams and attend this training as a “team”.**

**Who Should Attend**

The class is appropriate for personnel from any of the following:

* District leadership / School board
* School administration
* School psychologists, social workers, and counselors
* Special education personnel
* SROs / School security specialists
* Local, county and state law enforcement
* Human Resources
* Legal counsel
* Existing threat assessment team members
* Others interested in school safety

Please place a hold on your calendar for ***ONE*** of the dates below if you and/or your team would like to attend. Training will take place on:

October 12th, 2021 (8:00 am. to 4 pm.) (Virtual training platform)

October 13th, 2021 (8:00 am. to 4 pm.) (In person training/location TBD – central Vermont if possible)

October 14th, 2021 (8:00 am. to 4 pm.) (Virtual training platform)

October 19th, 2021 (8:00 am. to 4 pm.) (Virtual training platform)

Links to register for these courses will be available soon.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Evans (VT School Safety Liaison Officer – [revans@margolishealy.com](mailto:revans@margolishealy.com) (802) 839-0448