Salem Keizer School District

Suicide Risk Assessment System

Peer Witness Interview - Level 1

**Step 1:** **Directions for the Interviewer:**

**This interview is only to be conducted by an administrator or school counselor as a supplement to the Level 1 Assessment Protocol. Address the following questions through an interview or open-ended inquiry with the peer witness (who is/are involved or may have information about a student with suicidal ideations or behaviors).**

**Do NOT ask the peer witness to read and complete the questions by themselves.**

**The following is an assessment of current circumstances and as these circumstances change, so too does the risk potential. Therefore, review the results of this interview while being mindful of supervision, intervention, and the passage of time. Each question is a prompt for exploration of the circumstances that may involve the escalation of risk.**

**An equity lens has been applied to the safety and support response process. The lens identified concerns regarding underserved and underrepresented populations that lack confidence in support systems and, thus, tend to underreport. Be sure to approach information sources with cultural sensitivity and explore all leads. Provide assurance that safety, inclusion, and connection are the focus. The lens also identified concerns for bias toward underserved populations and minoritized groups that may lead to overreaction or unnecessary discipline. Focus on facts and behavior unique to the situation. Avoid assumptions and/or personalizing language and behavior.**

**Student of Concern Name:**       **Student ID#:**  **School:**       **Grade:**

**Peer Witness ID#:**       **Date:**

**Relationship/Length of Relationship to Student:**

**Administrator’s Name**:       **Interviewer Name/Role**:

**Reason for Witness Interview:**

**Step 2:** **Ask the following questions through conversation or direct inquiry.**

**Address the peer witness and describe the perceived suicidal threat that has brought this situation to your attention. Explain our obligation and responsibility to assess and support all situations that may be dangerous for the student, other students, and staff**.

1. I understand you know about a student who may have suicidal thoughts, would you tell me about that? What exactly was said (written, posted, drawn, filmed, or otherwise communicated)?

1. What have they shared with you about the reason for wanting to harm themselves?

1. Have they talked about a plan?       If so, do you know what their plan is and have they shared a timeline or date?
2. Do you know if the student(s) involved has access to or are trying to acquire any weapons, medications, or other means to hurt themselves?
3. How concerned are you that they will follow through with their plan to end their life?

1. Are you aware of a plan to hurt anyone else?

**(If yes to any of Question #6, talk with administrator regarding potentially initiating a Level 1 student threat assessment)**

1. Is there anything else we should know about this situation? Are you aware of any difficulties this student might be experiencing? What concerns you most? **(*An example might be recent changes in stressors such as feelings of loss, personal crisis (such as pregnancy), family turmoil, sense of failure or recent victimization (abuse or bullying)****).*

8. We care very much about your friend. Do they have any positives happening in their life?

9. How are you feeling about this? Is there anything we can do to support you?

10. Do you believe your friend would be open to help and have they sought out help?