

## **Keynote #2 - The Delicate Art of Uncovering Suicidal Ideation: the Chronological Assessment of Suicide Events**

**Speaker:** Shawn Christopher Shea, M.D. ([www.suicideassessment.com](http://www.suicideassessment.com))

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**Intended Audience:** Appropriate for counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, social workers, substance abuse counselors, school counselors, case managers, and all mental health trainees

### **Description**

Undoubtedly one of the most difficult and critical tasks for any clinician is the assessment of suicide risk. In this workshop Dr. Shea describes an innovative interviewing strategy for eliciting suicidal ideation and behaviors, the Chronological Assessment of Suicide Events (the CASE Approach). He provides an in-depth presentation of how to use the CASE Approach to weave four interviewing techniques - designed to increase validity - into a fluid interview strategy for uncovering suicidal desire, intent, ideation, planning and actions. The nuances of the strategy are demonstrated using a compelling videotape showing a patient who presents with complex suicidal ideation. The internationally acclaimed CASE Approach has been described by David Jobes Ph.D., a former President of the American Association of Suicidology, as follows:

“The CASE Approach moves the clinician almost imperceptibly into the secret internal workings of the mind and soul of the patient tormented by suicidal ideation. I believe that the CASE Approach is a remarkable conceptual and clinical contribution to the field of suicidology. It should be taught to any front-line clinician. It has the power to meaningfully save lives.”

### **Objectives**

- 1) Understand the role of four specific interviewing techniques (the behavioral incident, gentle assumption, symptom amplification and denial of the specific) for improving the validity of elicited suicidal ideation while decreasing errors of omission and optimizing engagement.
- 2) Understand the theory and practical application of a specific interview strategy for the elicitation of suicidal ideation and behaviors, the Chronological Assessment of Suicide Events (the CASE Approach).
- 3) Be able to flexibly utilize the above approach as a sensitive and rapid method of uncovering suicidal ideation and intent in a busy clinic or hospital setting.

## The Speaker

Shawn Christopher Shea, M.D. is an internationally acclaimed workshop leader and educational innovator in the fields of suicide prevention, resiliency, clinical interviewing, and improving medication adherence having given over 850 presentations worldwide. He has been a recipient of an Outstanding Course Award presented by the American Psychiatric Association for his presentations at their annual meetings. He is a frequent presenter at the annual meeting of the American Association of Suicidology and at the Cape Cod Symposium where his course has received the highest evaluation of the thirty courses featured over the summer. He has also presented at the Santa Fe Symposium, the Door County Summer Institute, and the Muskoka Summer Seminar Series from McMaster University.

Dr. Shea is the author of six books and numerous articles including one of the classic texts in the field of suicide prevention, *The Practical Art of Suicide Assessment*. His works have been translated into a variety of languages as diverse as French, Greek, Japanese, and Chinese. Both editions of his book, *Psychiatric Interviewing: the Art of Understanding*, have been chosen by the Medical Library Association for the Brandon/Hill List as one of the 16 most important books in the field of psychiatry.

His book on creating resiliency in difficult times - *Happiness Is* - was chosen as a Brodart Library Gem, a Bowker's title to Watch, and as the Philosophy Book of the Month by the Radical Academy. Former Surgeon General C, Everett Koop, M.D., Sc.D. provided the foreword to Dr. Shea's latest book, *Improving Medication Adherence: How to Talk with Patients About Their Medications* which, in 2009, was chosen for Doody's Core Titles list of the most important books in the fields of medicine and nursing.

Dr. Shea is the Director of the Training Institute for Suicide Assessment and Clinical Interviewing ([www.suicideassessment.com](http://www.suicideassessment.com)), a training and consultation service providing workshops, consultations, and quality assurance design in mental health assessments. Dr. Shea is also in private practice.