

The Samaritans *A Safe Place to Turn in Times of Crisis*

Crisis Communications and Safety Planning

Increasing staff and site readiness in responding to at-risk individuals

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Sign-in: 8:30 – 9 am

Program: 9 am – 12:30 pm

Edward R. Murrow High School
1600 Avenue L - Auditorium
Brooklyn, New York 11230

A recent *CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey* reported that suicidal behavioral is a significant problem for NYC public school students. It found that 30,000 NYC high school students attempted suicide in the previous year and that those students represent every sex and culture.

Most public health experts who work with people who are depressed, in distress, experiencing trauma, self-destructive and suicidal behavior agree that the keys to effective responses and interventions are found in responders' communication skills and their site's "readiness."

Based on Samaritans over 25 years of providing suicide prevention training and technical support to NYC public schools, this interactive workshop will provide a step-by-step refresher on effective communications and a guide on developing a *safety plan* and a *site prevention plan*.

The program will include:

- Current youth-related suicide statistics and trends
- Exploration of stigma and how it impacts crisis responses
- Refresher and group exercises in effective communications
- Review of warning signs, risk and protective factors of suicide
- Utilization of suicide risk assessment models
- Designing a safety plan for at-risk students and clients
- Developing a site-based prevention plan with community resources

Presenter: *Alan Ross, Executive Director, Samaritans*, has trained over 40,000 healthcare providers and communications staff from *NYC DOE, DOHMH, DYCD, HRA, NYPD, FDNY, Safe Horizon, U.S. Coast Guard, AIDS Task Forces, GMHC, St. Vincent's Rape Crisis, Salvation Army and Girl Scouts of America*. His work has been featured in *The New York Times, Daily News, Oprah, New York Magazine, Brief Treatment and Crisis Intervention, the British Journal of Social Work* and he has appeared on *Good Morning America, PBS, Nightline, CNN and MTV*.