

Behavioral Threat Assessment

TEAM TRAINING EXERCISE

What is Behavioral Threat Assessment?

Behavioral Threat Assessment (BTA) is a fact-based, systematic process designed to identify, inquire, assess, and manage potentially dangerous or violent situations. BTA is crafted to gather a holistic picture of an individual that may be on a pathway to violence and to design a plan to mitigate harm and intervene effectively.

What Behavioral Threat Assessment is Not.

- Behavioral Threat Assessment is NOT a simple checklist of warning signs and red flags.
- Behavioral Threat Assessment is NOT criminally profiling individuals or conducting psychoanalysis.
- Behavioral Threat Assessment is NOT used to label students as trouble makers.
- Behavioral Threat Assessment is NOT used as a means to remove students from school systems.
- Behavioral Threat Assessment is NOT used to find the next school shooter.

Purpose of Exercise

The purpose of this exercise activity is to prepare Behavior Threat Assessment (BTA) team members to; effectively perform their individual role and responsibilities, collaborate as a member of the team, and consider information that culminates in a decision.

RESOURCES



Visit schoolsafety.maryland.gov, go to "Resources", then "Training & Exercise".



CONTACT INFO



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Date: _____

Exercise Facilitator: _____

Team Member & Role: _____

Scenario

LOST IN TRANSLATION

Bonnie is a 12-year-old female student who has racked up several referrals to the office for attempting to start fights. Earlier in the day, she was visibly upset because a group of her friends were hanging out with another student whom she did not like. When she asked her friends why they were not hanging out with her, her friends said that the other girl was more fun and they could talk to whoever they wanted. In class, she told the teacher that her life didn't matter and neither did anyone else, and she ran out of the class crying.

BACKGROUND:

- Parents do not speak English
- Parents attempted therapy with no success
- The therapist advised that she does suffer from suicidal thoughts
- A search of her computer revealed a search of how to commit suicide while hurting others
- Group chats with other people with similar suicidal/homicidal thoughts



Start Here

IDEATION	Notes, information, and general considerations
Is there a real or perceived grievance? If so, identify the grievance.	
Is there a history or pattern with violence?	
Does a risk of danger exist?	
Is the individual expressing thoughts or fantasies considering violence to address their grievance?	

***NOTE:** Many people have occasional or fleeting thoughts of violence but do not act, we should still be alert of the possibility and that the individual may be struggling with a grievance of some sort.

Decision:

PLANNING	Notes, information, and general considerations
Are there details revealed; i.e. who, what, when?	
Expressions referenced in timing, location, targets, means, etc.?	
Research and references being relayed on how?	
Has the individual begun obtaining information on materials and weapons?	

***NOTE:** Research and references alone do not constitute that an individual is planning an attack.

Decision:

PREPARATION	Notes, information, and general considerations
Are steps being taken to execute the acts of violence?	
Has the individual made attempts to obtain materials, clothing, tools to fulfill their plans?	
Has the individual attempted dry runs or to alter plans to overcome potential obstacles or challenges that would prevent them from carrying out their plan?	
Have boundaries or restricted areas been tested?	

***NOTE: This stage is beyond just acquiring weapons, this stage involves attempts to prepare for the violent act.**

Decision:

IMPLEMENTATION	Notes, information, and general considerations
What clues, facts, indicators are present that the threat is imminent?	
What indicators are present that the individual has moved from Ideation to Implementation?	
What resources and partners are readily available?	
What resources are available to stop the act of violence?	

***NOTE: This step may be expedited by a sense of desperation, or influences of others encouraging escalation through social media or direct communication.**

Final Conclusion	Case Manager
	30 day review date: _____

