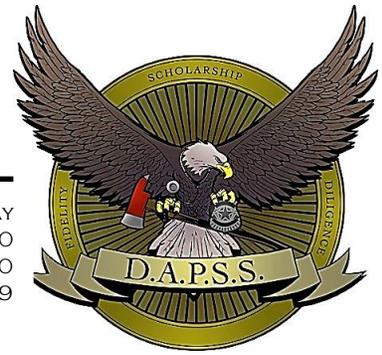


Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security

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801 N. DUPONT HIGHWAY
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DAPSS Suicide Prevention

Policy #: 160806

Purpose:

The Delaware Academy of Public Safety and Security (DAPSS) recognizes the serious problem of youth suicide and acknowledges that providing a policy for DAPSS administrators and staff members regarding youth suicide recognition and prevention is extremely important. DAPSS also acknowledges that youth suicide is a very complex issue which cannot be addressed solely by DAPSS administrators and staff members alone; parents, family members, friends and peers also play a vital role in the identification, remediation and resolution of youth suicide recognition and prevention. This Suicide Prevention Policy aims to recognize, prevent and combat the problem of youth suicide and meets the requirements set forth in the State of Delaware Code, 14 Del. C. 4124, relative to suicide prevention.

This policy has been developed to protect the health and well-being of all DAPSS cadets by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide. DAPSS recognizes that physical, behavioral, and emotional health is an integral component of our cadet's educational outcomes. DAPSS further recognizes that suicide is a leading cause of death among young people, and that we as an institution, have an ethical responsibility to take a proactive approach in preventing deaths by suicide. DAPSS also acknowledges the school's role in providing an environment which is sensitive to individual and societal factors that place youth at a greater risk for suicide and one which helps to foster positive youth development.

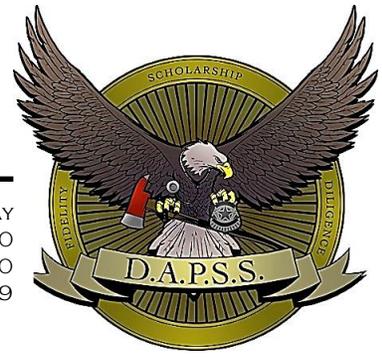
Procedure:

Training: All employees of DAPSS shall participate in at least one combined training each year totaling at least ninety (90) minutes in suicide recognition and prevention. The training materials should be evidence-based and approved by the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE), the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services and the Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families. DAPSS has the discretion to require its employees to require additional training on the topic of youth suicide recognition and prevention. Any in-service training required by this section shall be provided within the contracted school year as provided in **14 Del. C., 1305(e)**. All DAPSS employees shall provide evidence and/or proof of the training participation and completion which shall be turned into the Human Resources Department for documentary purposes.

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Prevention: DAPSS will create a Suicide Prevention Coordinating Committee that is responsible for establishing the Suicide Prevention Program. This committee will consist of a minimum of five (5) DAPSS employees including but not limited to the following:

School Nurse – Suicide Prevention Coordinator

Mental Health Counselor

Director of Public Safety

Two additional DAPSS Staff Members

This committee will:

Hold a minimum of five (5) meetings per calendar school year (August through June).

Coordinate any additional staff training.

Ensure that all training is documented and recorded by maintaining a training log (either paper or electronic).

Establish a method for the identification and reporting by all staff members regarding cadets who have the potential and/or for self-harm, suicidal ideations, attempted suicide or the threatening of any of the listed examples.

Assessment and Referral: When a cadet is identified by a DAPSS Staff Member as potentially suicidal, i.e., verbalizes about suicide, presents overt risk factors such as agitation or intoxication, the act of self-harm occurs, or a cadet self-refers, the cadet will be seen by the DAPSS Mental Health Counselor within the same school day to assess the risk and facilitate referral. If the mental health counselor is unavailable, the DAPSS Nurse or an administrator will fill this role until the parent(s)/guardian can take custody of the cadet and arrange for the appropriate mental health referral.

For cadets at risk:

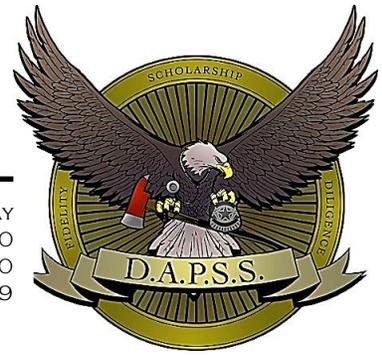
DAPSS Staff Member(s) will continuously supervise the cadet to ensure their safety.

The DAPSS Suicide Prevention Coordinator will be made aware of the situation as soon as reasonably possible and will relay the appropriate information to the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Committee. In all circumstances, a DAPSS Administrator will remain on site until the situation is resolved, possibly including after school hours.

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The DAPSS Mental Health Counselor or Head of School will contact the cadet's parent(s)/guardian(s), as listed in the DAPSS Parent Notification Form, and will assist the family with referral. When appropriate, this may include calling the local Emergency Medical Services or bringing the cadet to the local hospital emergency department. The parent(s)/guardian needs to immediately respond to DAPSS and take custody of their child for the purpose of seeking a complete suicide/mental health evaluation. Locations for this evaluation will be provided upon the pick-up of the cadet. If the parent(s)/guardians cannot be reached or refuse to pick-up the cadet, then emergency medical services will be contacted.

Reporting: The Suicide Prevention Coordinator will develop the process/document for the confidential and anonymous reporting procedures of a cadet demonstrating the warning signs of suicide. This process/document will be maintained by the Head of School or his/her designee. All privacy rules will be adhered to, including any applicable Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) provisions.

The Suicide Prevention Coordinating Committee will determine the process necessary for communication between DAPSS staff members and medical professionals who are involved in treating cadets for suicide issues. This process/document will be maintained by the Head of School or his/her designee. All privacy rules will be adhered to, including any applicable Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) provisions.

Retaliation Restrictions: No DAPSS staff member, employee, volunteer or cadet shall be retaliated against for reporting a cadet though tot be demonstrating the warning signs of suicide.

In-School Suicide Attempts: In the case of an in-school suicide attempt, the health, safety and well-being of the cadet is paramount. For safety, treatment and confidentiality of the victim, upon learning of the suicide attempt, DAPSS will immediately be placed into a Shelter-In-Place (See DAPPS Lockdown/Shelter-In-Place Policy # 160604). In these situations:

First aid will be rendered until professional medical treatment and/or transportation can be received.

DAPSS staff member(s) on location will supervise and remain with the victim to ensure his/her safety.

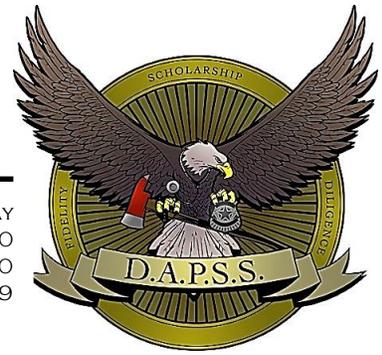
DAPSS staff members will move all other cadets out of the immediate area as soon as possible while the Shelter-In-Place is commencing.

The DAPSS Head of School or his/her designee will immediately contact the cadet/victim's parent or guardian as indicated on the Parental Notification Form.

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DAPSS will employ the Suicide Prevention Coordination Committee to assist with the further needs of the cadet/victim, family, staff members and cadet.

Out-of-School Suicide Attempts: If a DAPSS staff member becomes aware of a suicide attempt by a cadet that is in progress in an out-of-school location, the staff member will immediately call the police/emergency medical services/911. Once our public safety partners are notified the staff member will notify the Suicide Prevention Coordinator (DAPSS Nurse) who will then attempt to make notification to the cadet's parent(s)/guardian as well as the Head of School. If the cadet contacts the staff member and expresses suicidal ideation, the staff member should maintain contact with the cadet (either in person, on-line or on the telephone). The staff member should then enlist the assistance of another person, including a cadet if necessary, to contact the police/emergency medical services/911 while maintaining verbal engagement with the cadet/victim.

Cadet/Victim Re-entry Procedure: For cadets returning to DAPSS after a mental health crisis, the DAPSS Mental Health Counselor, Nurse, Head of School or his/her designee will meet with the cadet's parent(s)/guardian, and if appropriate, meet with the cadet to discuss re-entry into DAPSS and the appropriate next steps to ensure the cadet's readiness to return to DAPSS. The parent(s)/guardian must provide documentation from a certified mental health care provider that the cadet has undergone examination and that they are no longer a danger to themselves or others before they are allowed re-entry.

Once re-entry is established, the DAPSS Mental Health Counselor as well as the DAPSS Nurse will periodically check in with the cadet to help that cadet readjust to the DAPSS community and address any ongoing concerns.