Course Overview

This certification course is broken up into four 90-minute modules. The instructor(s) walk attendees through a team based, research informed process of assessing direct and written threats to others and self. Leading government organizations and research leaders stress the importance of adopting a team-based, collaborative approach to threat assessment, understanding the transient and substantive nature of threats as well as suicidality, hopelessness, and isolation. The training can be taught over one day or broken up over several weeks to allow for interactive learning exercises and instructor feedback.

Each module includes:
- 90-minutes of instruction by faculty experienced in these subject matters. The instruction can be received online through Zoom or in-person.
- Detailed Thematic One-sheet Documentation and Directions (TODDs) for each content area covered in the module
- Case studies are included to increase the practical application of the concepts and improve fidelity of the training at your location. Risk and anchor sheets, as well as a threat template and sample reports, are included to ensure those attending the course are ready to put the concepts into action.

Module One
Core Tenets of Violence Risk Assessment: This 90-minute workshop reviews common terminology related to violence risk and threat assessment such as affective and predatory violence, leakage, catalyst events, transient/substantive threats, fame-seeking, fixation/focus, actionability and lethality. Case examples are provided for each concept. Anchor and protective factors and special applications for social media assessment will be reviewed. This portion of the training moves quickly, taking into account teams that may have these core concepts in place. TODDs are provided for easy access and study.

Module Two
Interviewing Skills, Deception Detection, and Bias & Culture: This second 90-minute workshop covers the best practices in the art and science of interviewing. This includes discussions of rapport building techniques, addressing defensiveness, detecting and managing deception, and overcoming impression management. Interviewers will learn how to become aware of implicit bias and learn to mitigate both implicit and explicit bias in gathering information, as well as common terminology related to violence risk and threat assessment. An overview of best practices in social media assessment and the grid approach to image analysis will be covered.

Module Three
From Risk Assessment to Threat Management: This third 90-minute workshop offers practical advice on how to think through a threat case with the blank page process (BPP). Risk sheets will be provided and discussed for suicide, written and narrative threats, radicalized and extremist thoughts, verbal threats (transient/substantive), affective violence, and sexual predation. Participants will discuss how to balance risk and escalation elements in a threat case against anchor (protective, stabilizing) elements and to contextual environmental factors.

Module Four
Case Study Application and Report Writing: This final 90-minute workshop will provide hands-on guidance for participants to apply these concepts with two real world case studies. The instructor will provide guidance on how to apply the appropriate risk sheets, work a blank page process (BPP) and use a smart template to develop a plan of action moving forward. Discussion of key elements in a case report will be reviewed and final reports for each case will be shared with the group at the conclusion of the class.