

Student Threat Assessment Community of Practice Charter

May 22, 2020

1. Purpose of Charter

To provide an overview of the Student Threat Assessment Community of Practice (STA CoP) and outline the structure for the group, ensuring that all the commitments, expected outcomes, and risks are clearly defined.

2. References

The following documents provide guidance for the STA Community of Practice and its leadership:

- Adair, C. A. (July, 2017). Prevention of School Violence: Student Threat Assessment and Related Approaches a Review of the Literature. Calgary, AB: Calgary and Area Regional Collaborative Service Delivery. Available on the CoP team drive.
- Adair, C. A. (July, 2017). Prevention of School Violence: Student Threat Assessment and Related Approaches Gaps, Opportunities and Recommendations. Calgary, AB: Calgary and Area Regional Collaborative Service Delivery. Available on the CoP team drive.
- Adair, C. A. (July, 2017). Prevention of School Violence: Student Threat Assessment and Related Approaches A Comparison of Calgary and Area RCSD Partner and Selected External Approaches and Sector Stakeholder Views on Student Threat Assessment. Calgary, AB: Calgary and Area Regional Collaborative Service Delivery. Available on the CoP team drive.
- Wenger E., McDermott, R., and Snyder, W. M. (2002) *Cultivating Communities of Practice*. Boston, MA: Harvard Business School Press. Available at: <http://cpcoaching.it/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/WengerCPC.pdf>

3. Overview of the STA Community of Practice

- **Community of Practice Charter Statement:**

The purpose of the Student Threat Assessment Community of Practice is to build organizational knowledge and capacity in assessing, supporting, referring, and providing treatment, care, postvention, and supervision for youth who have made threats of violence. The Community will also strive to develop cultures and climates of violence prevention in all settings where youth live, play, learn, and grow. We accomplish this by informing, supporting, facilitating, and mobilizing the collective work of our organizations and stakeholders in a collaborative manner.

- **Community of Practice Scope:**

This Community will operate as a collaborative effort, independent from contributing partner organizations. Members will be responsible for their own participation and for contributing to effective, collaborative relationships within the Community, as well as for any necessary communication about the activities of the Community within their own organizations.

In Scope:

The Community can pursue the following areas as part of its charter:

- Collect and share best practices in student threat assessment and violence prevention.
- Create a common framework of principles to inform student threat assessment protocols within individual organizations.
- Develop standing or ad hoc cross-sector and inter-organizational threat assessment teams as required.
- Organize and create shared learning opportunities for targeted or general audiences.
- Develop and promote processes for inter-organizational communication and sharing of information on potential or known cases.
- Build and mobilize the existing knowledge base for partner organizations to access.
- Keep informed of current research and undertake or support new research to better understand student threat assessment, its precursors, and intervention approaches.
- Develop strategies and approaches that create environments of violence prevention.
- Explore post-vention supports that enable youth to be successful following incidents of threats and violence.

Not In Scope:

The Community is not chartered to do the following:

- Impose a universal approach to violence prevention and student threat assessment protocols.

- **Community of Practice Objectives**

The objectives of the Community are:

- Develop a common understanding of the key concepts related to student threat assessment and its relation to school climate and broader violence prevention.
- Strengthen cross-sector student threat assessment case collaboration and understanding of effective protocols and processes.

4. Approach

- **Structure:**

The Community will appoint two Community Moderators who will serve staggered, two-year terms. Community Moderators are responsible to lead the work of the Community of Practice by facilitating collaborative conversations in the group and identifying key priorities for partner organizations. Community Moderators are expected to call meetings, set the agenda, chair meetings, and assign minuting duties.

- **Community of Practice Membership:**

The Community will include membership from Alberta Health Services, Calgary and Area Children's Services, Calgary and Area Community and Social Services, Calgary Board of Education, Calgary Catholic School District, Calgary Police, Calgary Young Offenders Centre, Canadian Rockies School Division, Centre for Newcomers, Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools, Independent Schools (Private and Charter), Livingstone Range Schools, Palliser Regional Schools, Rocky View Schools, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and Tsuut'ina Nation.

Additional membership is welcome from all relevant community organizations in Calgary and Area and the province of Alberta. There is no limit set for the number of representatives from each partner and multiple participants are encouraged to increase organizational awareness of the Community's work and activities.

- **Responsibilities and Actions:**

The Community is expected to participate in meetings, familiarize themselves with materials ahead of time and contribute to discussions with the perspectives of the organization they represent. Participants are also expected to engage in collaborative discussions and relationship building between systems by sharing resources, knowledge, and expertise.

- **Risks:**
The Community acknowledges and seeks to mitigate the risks inherent to collaborative work in the field of student threat assessment, such as legal requirements, confidentiality, and criminal proceedings around specific cases.
- **Meeting Schedule:**
The Community will meet three times a year, between September and June. Meetings will be held at a mutually agreed location.

5. Stakeholder Approval

This charter is ratified on May 22, 2020 by:

Jason Kupery, Palliser Regional Schools – Community Moderator

John McDonald, Calgary Catholic School District – Community Moderator

This Charter will be reviewed and ratified on an annual basis.