



# **Saving Lives From Suicide:**

## **Two-Part CE Webinar**

Presented  
by Dr. Lisa Firestone

# Part 2

- Safety Planning
- Effective Brief Interventions
- Additional Treatment Approaches
- Resources

The background is a solid dark blue. It features several decorative elements: a large red-outlined circle in the top-left corner, a solid light grey circle in the middle-left, a solid light grey circle in the middle-right, and a red-outlined circle in the bottom-right corner.

# **Safety Planning**

# What a Crisis Response Plan Is:

- a memory aid to facilitate early identification of emotional crises
- a checklist of personalized strategies to follow during emotional crises
- a problem solving tool
- a collaboratively-developed strategy for managing acute periods of risk



# What a Crisis Response Plan Is NOT:

- a no-suicide contract
- a no-harm contract
- a contract for safety

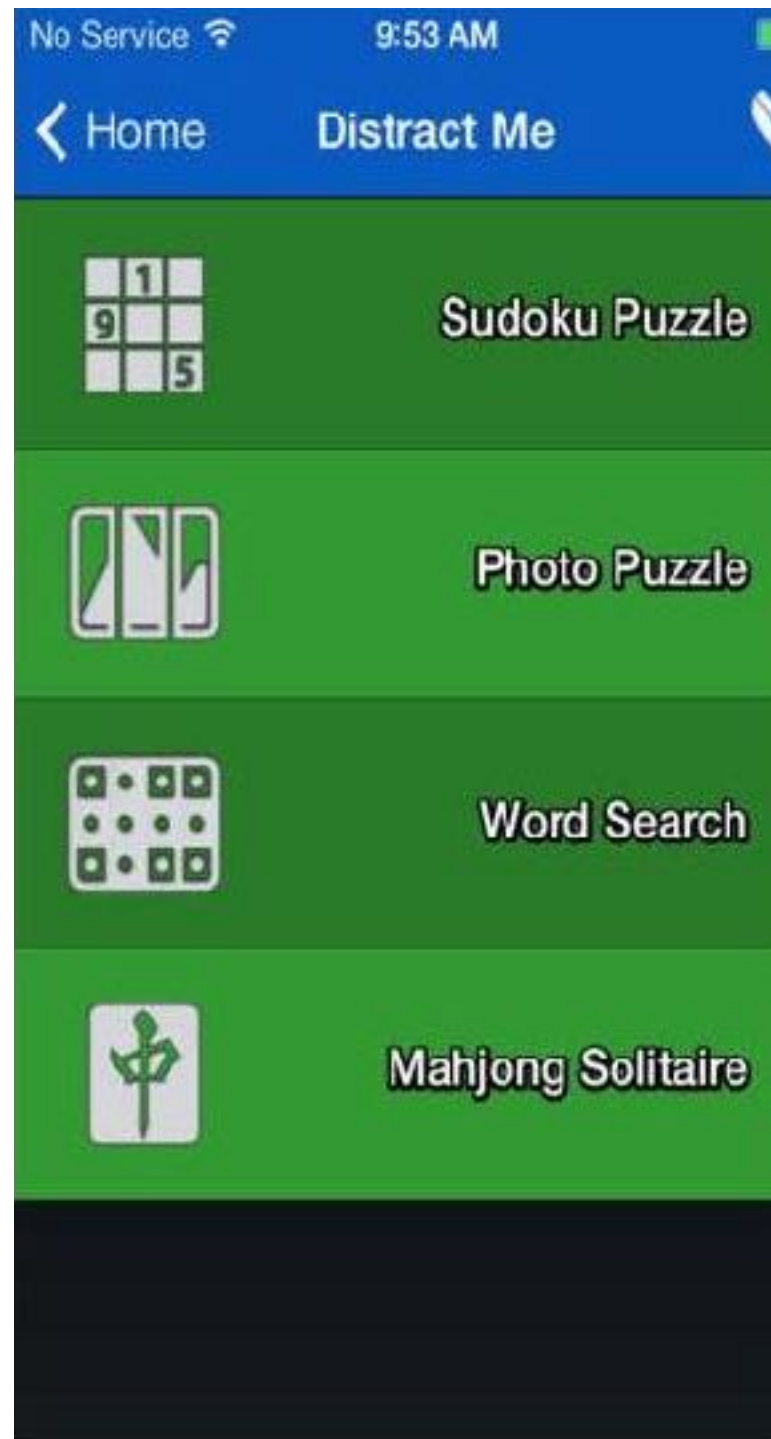
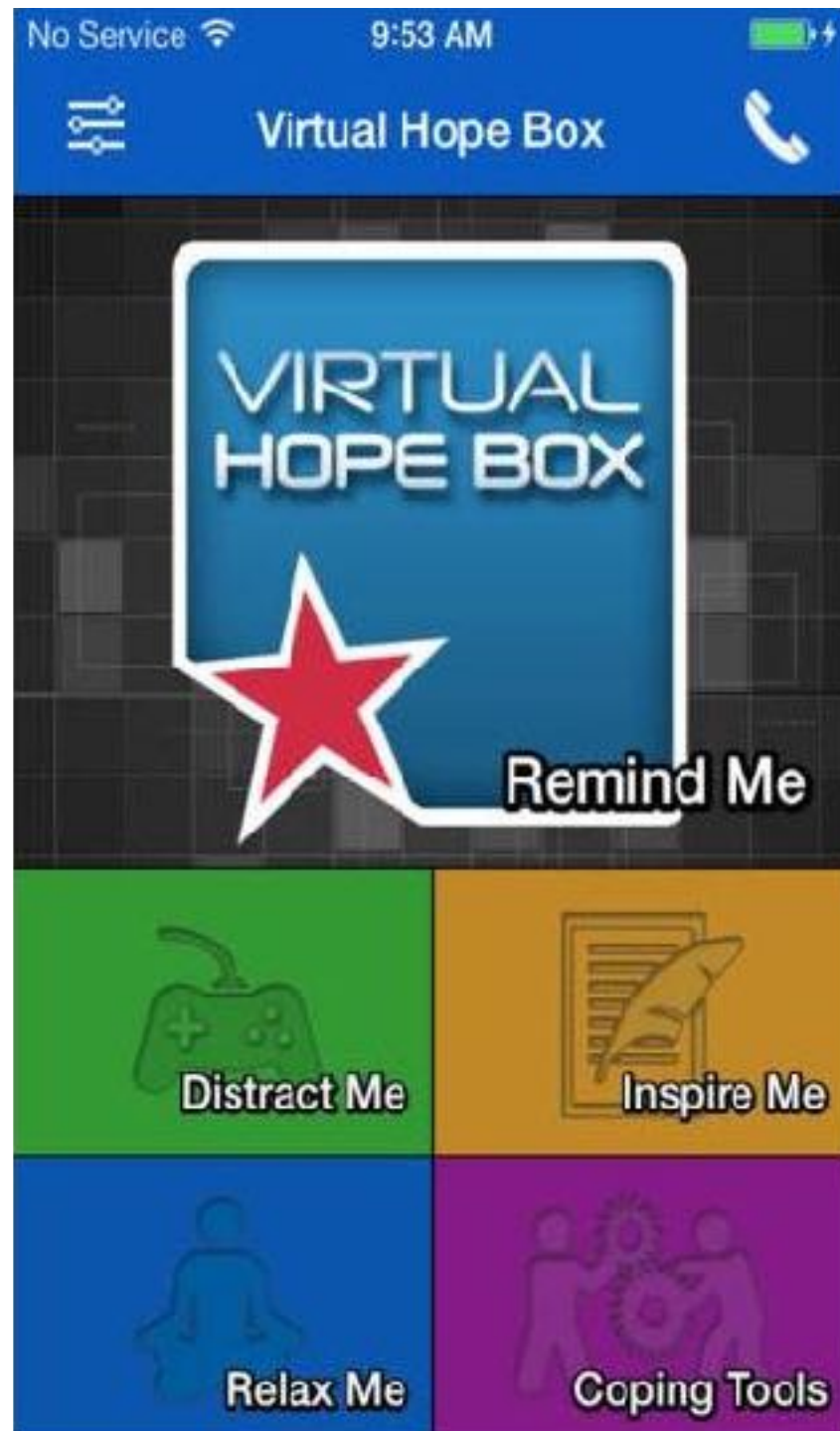
# Crisis Response Plan

1. Explain rationale for CRP
2. Provide card for patient to record CRP
3. Identify personal warning signs
4. Identify self-management strategies
5. Identify reasons for living
6. Identify social supports
7. Provide crisis/emergency steps
8. Verbally review and rate likelihood of use

# Tips for Effective Crisis Response Planning

- Ask patients to generate ideas by asking what has worked in the past
- Use index cards or business cards, not sheets of paper
- Handwrite the plan, do not “fill in the blanks” with pre-printed paper
- Laminate the card
- Take a picture of the card to keep in their smart phone
- Complement with the “Virtual Hope Box” app

# Virtual Hope Box App



# 6 Steps of Safety Planning

**Step 1:** Recognizing warning signs

**Step 2:** Using internal coping strategies

**Step 3:** Utilizing social contacts that can serve as a distraction from suicidal thoughts and who may offer support

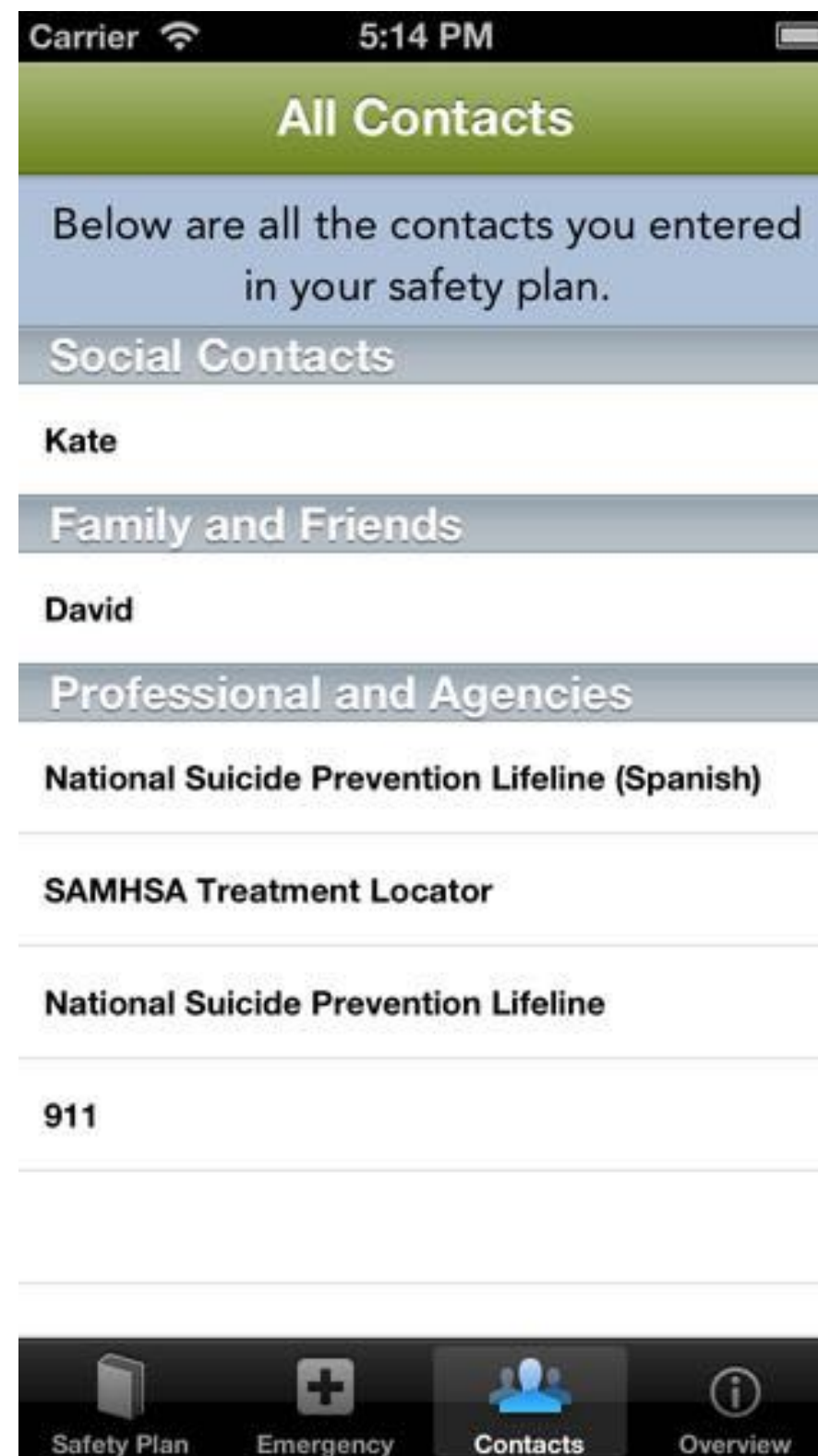
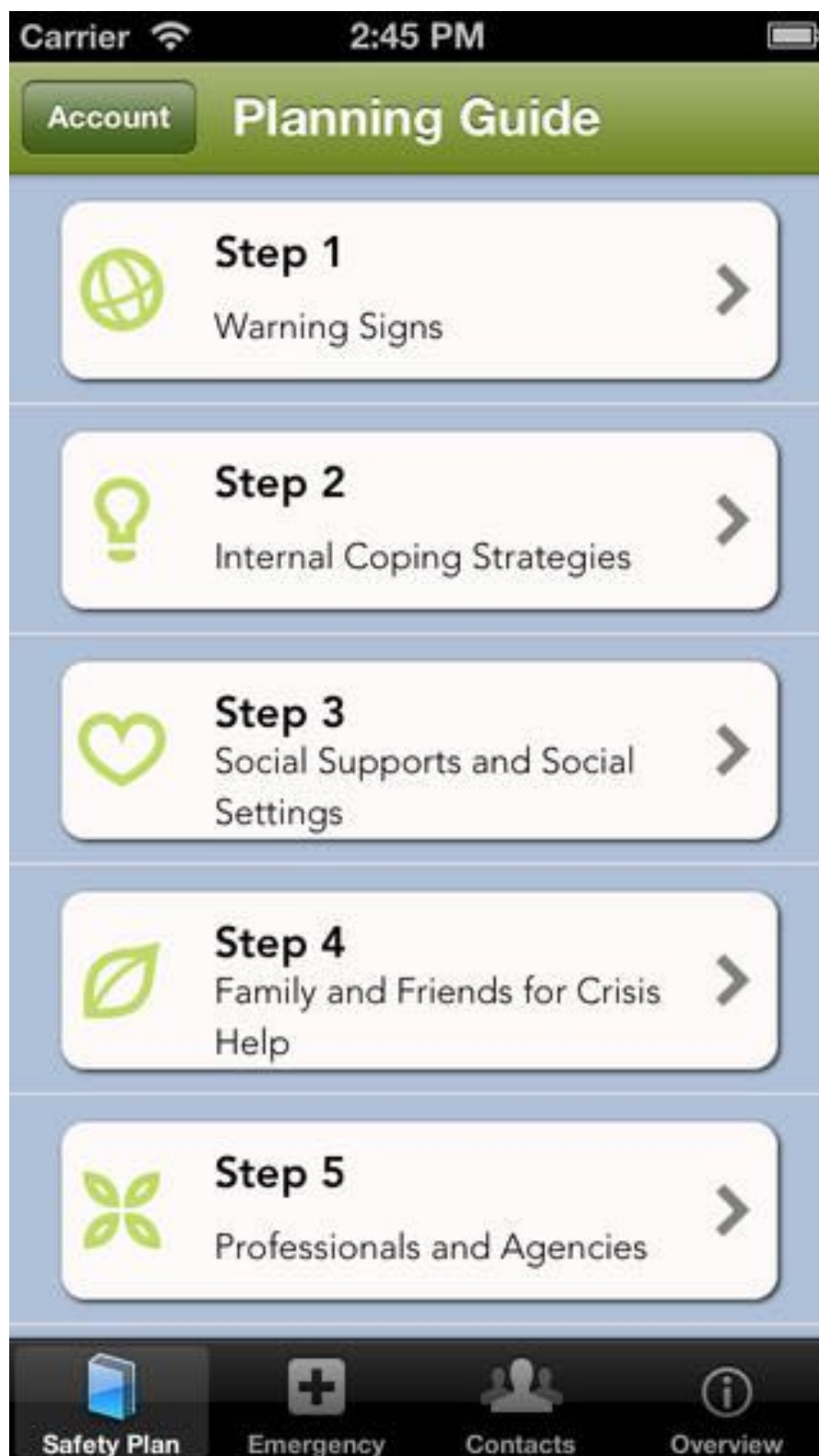
**Step 4:** Contacting family members or friends who may offer help to resolve the crisis

**Step 5:** Contacting professionals and agencies

**Step 6:** Reducing the potential for use of lethal means

# Practice Safety Planning

# Safety Plan App





# My 3 App



## Create your support system.

Add the contact information of the 3 people you feel you would like to talk to when you are having thoughts of suicide.



## Build your safety plan.

Customize your safety plan by identifying your personal warning signs, coping strategies, distractions and personal networks. This safety plan will be with you at all times and can help you stay safe when you start thinking about suicide. Learn more about [safety planning](#).



## Access Important Resources.

Hold all your resources in the palm of your hand. Whether you're a veteran, want support from your local community, or want to learn more about suicide prevention, pick the resources that best support you.



## Get support at times of greatest risk.

When you're having thoughts of suicide and it feels like there's no hope in sight, find support at your fingertips at any time of the day.



## Access the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 24/7.

A trained counselor from a crisis center near you can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Anyone can call, whether you're concerned for yourself or someone else. If you need someone to talk to, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is always ready for the call.





# Effect of crisis response planning vs. contracts for safety on suicide risk in U.S. Army Soldiers: A randomized clinical trial

- Contracting for safety (CFS) is widely used for managing acute suicide risk.
- Crisis response planning (CRP) is recommended instead of CFS.
- Suicide attempts and ideation were significantly reduced in CRP relative to CFS.

# CRP as Stand-Alone Intervention

| Study                          | Design | Tx  | Comparison Condition | Setting      | Sample                      | Follow-Up | Attempt Rates                           |
|--------------------------------|--------|---|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------|---|
| Bryan et al. (2017<br>N=97)    | RCT    | Standard CRP & Enhanced CRP               | TAU                  | ED, Outpt MH | Military, 78% male, 26 y    | 6 months  | 5% CRP vs. 19% TAU (76% rel. reduction) |
| Miller et al. (2017<br>N=1376) | Quasi  | Self-guided Safety Plan + f/u phone calls | TAU                  | ED           | ED patients, 55% male, 56 y | 12 months | 18% SP vs. 23% TAU (20% rel. reduction) |

# Treatments With Embedded CRP

| Study                                 | Design | Tx        | # of Sessions | Comparison Condition | Setting  | Sample                           | Follow-Up | Findings   |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-----------|---------------|----------------------|----------|----------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Brown et al. (2005<br>N=120)          | RCT    | CT-SP     | 10            | TAU                  | Outpt MH | Attempters,<br>40% male,<br>35 y | 18 months | 24% CT-SP<br>vs.<br>42% TAU<br>(50% rel.<br>reduction) |
| Rudd et al. (2015<br>N=152)           | RCT    | Brief CBT | 12            | TAU                  | Outpt MH | Military,<br>87% male,<br>27 y   | 24 months | 14% BCBT<br>vs.<br>40% TAU<br>(60% rel.<br>reduction)  |
| Gysin-Maillart et al. (2016<br>N=120) | RCT    | ASSIP     | 3             | TAU                  | Outpt MH | Attempters,<br>45% male,<br>38 y | 24 months | 5% ASSIP<br>vs.<br>27% TAU<br>(80% rel.<br>reduction)  |



# **Effective Brief Interventions**

# Suicide specific therapies that are evidence based

- Suicide specific
- Patient oriented
- All have follow-up
- All have CRP

# Elements of ASSIP

## (Attempted Suicide Short Intervention Program)



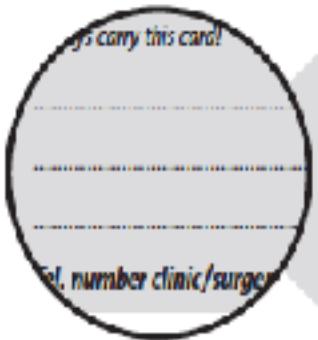
a. Exploring the background of a suicidal crisis with a narrative interview and establishing a therapeutic alliance;



b. Video playback for emotional and cognitive activation of the triggering mental pain condition. Important life issues relevant for a person's vulnerability are identified. Emotional and cognitive activation and restructuring;



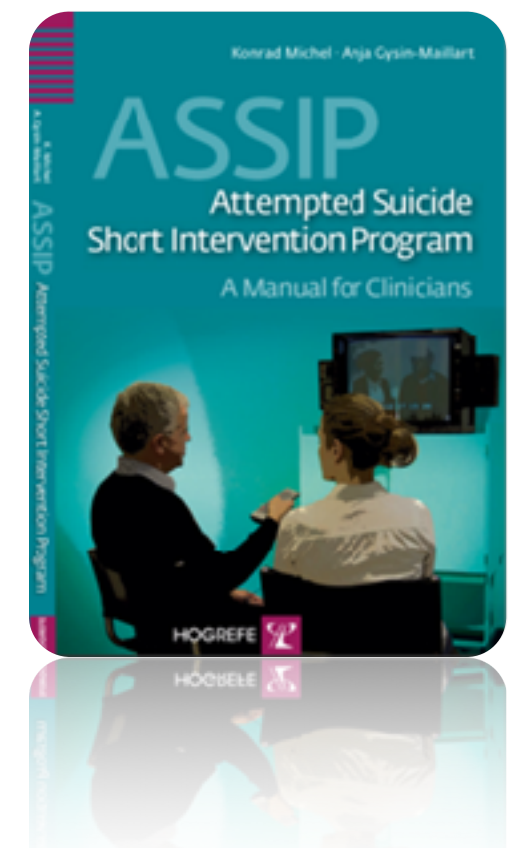
c. Improving self-awareness through identification of individual warning signs. Establishing behavioral strategies for future suicidal crises, and reexposure to initial narrative interview.



d. Long-term contact with patients through regular letters, reinforcing the therapeutic alliance, and reminding patients of preventive strategies.



Konrad Michel &  
Anja Gysin-Maillart



# First Session: Conducting a Narrative Interview

## Structure of the First Session

I would like to hear in your own words how you came to the point of harming yourself...

In my experience, there is always a story behind a suicide attempt, and I would like to hear your story...

- Start where you like.”
- Allow patients to make pauses in their speech and do not interrupt
- Clarifying questions
- Open questions
- Avoid asking why

# A Novel Brief Therapy for Patients Who Attempt Suicide

A 24-months Follow-Up Randomized Controlled Study of the Attempted Suicide Short Intervention Program (ASSIP)

- The study represents a real-world clinical setting at an outpatient clinic of a university hospital of psychiatry.
- During the 24-month follow-up period, five repeat suicide attempts were recorded in the ASSIP group and 41 attempts in the control group.
- The rates of participants reattempting suicide at least once were 8.3% (n = 5) and 26.7% (n = 16).



# A Novel Brief Therapy for Patients Who Attempt Suicide

A 24-months Follow-Up Randomized Controlled Study of the Attempted Suicide Short Intervention Program (ASSIP)

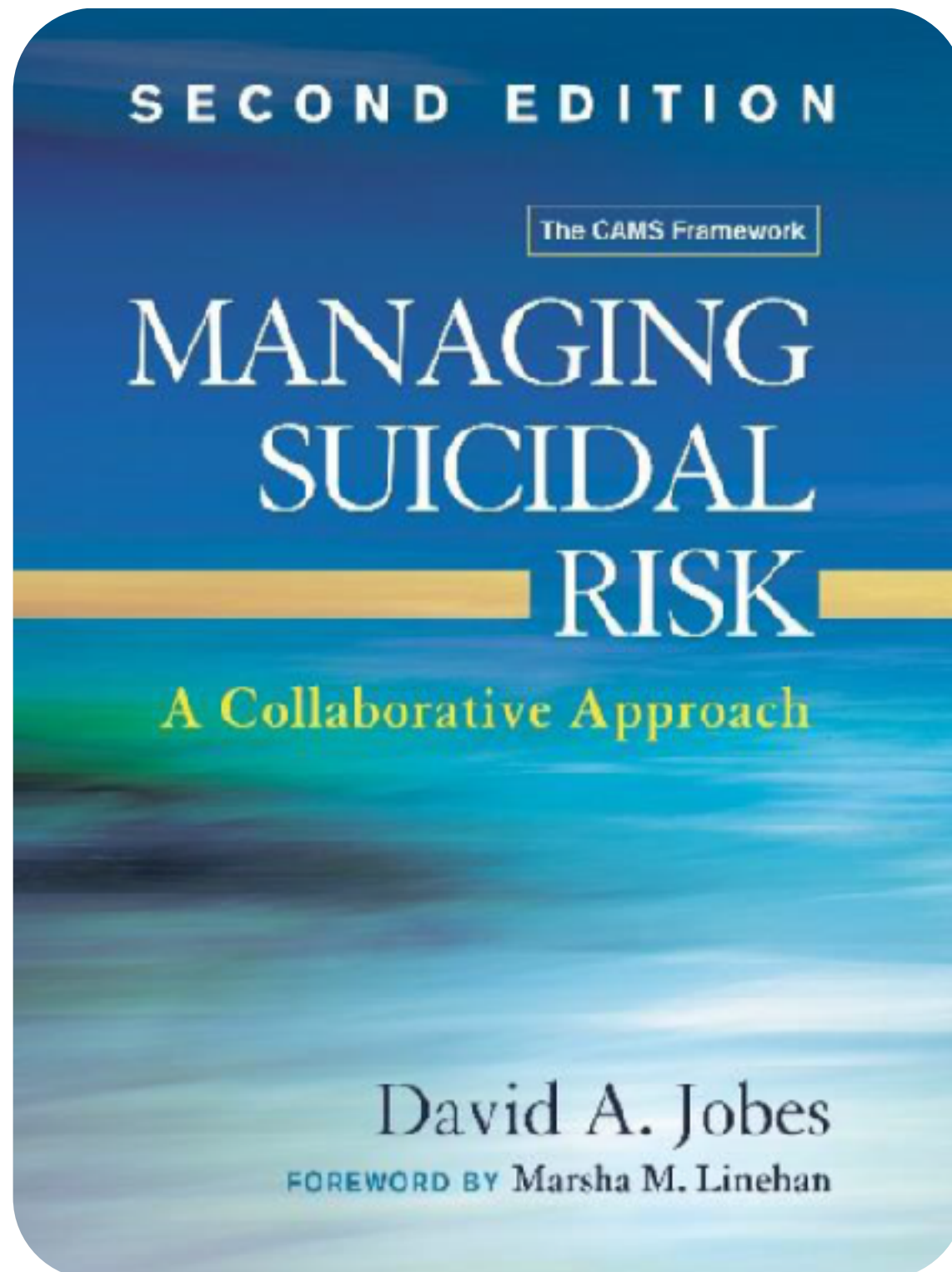
- ASSIP was associated with an approximately 80% reduced risk of participants making at least one repeat suicide attempt ( $\text{Wald}_{\chi^2_1} = 13.1$ , 95% CI 12.4-13.7,  $p < 0.001$ ).
- ASSIP participants spent 72% fewer days in the hospital during follow-up (ASSIP: 29 d; control group: 105 d;  $W = 94.5$ ,  $p = 0.038$ ).
- Higher scores of patient-rated therapeutic alliance in the ASSIP group were associated with a lower rate of repeat suicide attempts.

# A Novel Brief Therapy for Patients Who Attempt Suicide

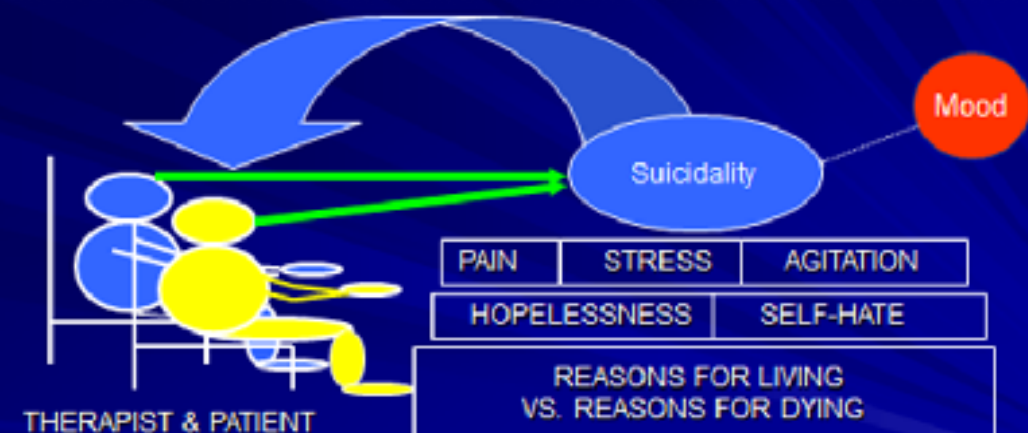
Attempted suicide short intervention program influences coping among patients with a history of attempted suicide

- The ASSIP group showed 11% less dysfunctional coping.
- The ASSIP group showed 6% more problem-focused coping.
- The ASSIP group showed higher scores in self-distraction after 12-months.
- The ASSIP group showed lower scores in self-blame after 24-months.
- Negative association of active coping with suicidal ideation in the ASSIP group.

# The Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS)



The Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS) identifies and targets **Suicide** as the primary focus of assessment and intervention...



CAMS assessment uses the Suicide Status Form (SSF) as a means of deconstructing the "functional" utility of suicidality; CAMS as an intervention emphasizes a problem-focused intensive outpatient approach that is suicide-specific and "co-authored" with the patient...

CAMS assessment uses the Suicide Status Form (SSF) as a means of deconstructing the "functional" utility of suicidality; CAMS as an intervention emphasizes a problem-focused intensive outpatient approach that is suicide-specific and "co-authored" with the patient...

# SSF IV

## Suicide Status Form-4 Initial Session

Rank

Patient\_\_\_\_\_ Clinician\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_ Time\_\_\_\_\_

Section A-Patient

Rate and fill out each item according to how you feel right now. Then rank items in order of importance 1 to 5 (1=most important, 5=least important)

1. Rate psychological pain (hurt, anguish, or misery in your mind; not stress; not physical pain):

Low Pain: 1 2 3 4 5 :High Pain

What I find most painful is:\_\_\_\_\_

2. Rate stress(your general feeling of being pressured or overwhelmed):

Low Stress: 1 2 3 4 5 :High Stress

What I find most stressful is:\_\_\_\_\_

3. Rate agitation(emotional urgency; feeling that you need to take action; not irritation; not annoyance):

Low Agitation: 1 2 3 4 5 :High Agitation

I most need to take action when:\_\_\_\_\_

4. Rate Hopelessness (your expectation that things will not get better no matter what you do)

Low Hopelessness: 1 2 3 4 5 :High Hopelessness

I am most hopeless about:\_\_\_\_\_

5. Rate Self-Hate (your general feeling or disliking of yourself; having no self-esteem; having no self-respect)

Low Self-Hate: 1 2 3 4 5 :High Self-Hate

What I hate most about myself is:\_\_\_\_\_

6. Rate overall Risk of Suicide:

Extremely Low Risk (will not kill self): 1 2 3 4 5 : Extremely High Risk (will kill self)

N/A

# SSF IV

## Suicide Status Form-4 Initial Session

| Rank | REASONS FOR LIVING | Rank | REASONS FOR DYING |
|------|--------------------|------|-------------------|
|      |                    |      |                   |
|      |                    |      |                   |
|      |                    |      |                   |
|      |                    |      |                   |
|      |                    |      |                   |

1. How much is being suicidal related to thoughts and feelings about yourself?  
Not at all: 1 2 3 4 5 : Completely

2. How much is being suicidal related to thoughts and feelings about others?  
Not at all: 1 2 3 4 5 : Completely

The one thing that would help me no longer feel suicidal\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Section B (Clinician):**

|   |   |                               |  |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Y | N | Suicide ideation              | Describe: _____  |
|   |   | • Frequency                   | _____ per day          _____ per week          _____ per month |
|   |   | • Duration                    | _____ seconds          _____ minutes          _____ hours      |
| Y | N | Suicide plan                  | When: _____  |
|   |   |                               | Where: _____   |
|   |   |                               | How: _____ Access to means Y N                                 |
|   |   |                               | How: _____ Access to means Y N                                 |
| Y | N | Suicide preparation           | Describe: _____  |
| Y | N | Suicide rehearsal             | Describe: _____  |
| Y | N | History of suicidal behaviors |  |
|   |   | • Single attempt              | Describe: _____  |
|   |   | • Multiple attempts           | Describe: _____  |
| Y | N | Impulsivity                   | Describe: _____  |
| Y | N | Substance abuse               | Describe: _____  |
| Y | N | Significant loss              | Describe: _____  |
| Y | N | Relationship problems         | Describe: _____  |
| Y | N | Burden to others              | Describe: _____  |
| Y | N | Health/pain problems          | Describe: _____  |
| Y | N | Sleep problems                | Describe: _____  |
| Y | N | Legal/financial issues        | Describe: _____  |
| Y | N | Shame                         | Describe: _____  |

# CAMS

## Assessment & Treatment

**CAMS Suicide Status Form—SSF IV (Initial Session)**

Patient: Keith Clinician: DJ Date: Session 1 Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section A (Patient):**

Rate and fill out each item according to how you feel right now. Then rank in order of importance 1 to 5 (1=most important to 5=least important).

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1   | 1) RATE PSYCHOLOGICAL PAIN (hurt, anguish, or misery in your mind, <u>not</u> stress, <u>not</u> physical pain):<br>Low pain: 1 2 3 4 5 High pain<br>What I find most painful is: <u>Guilt over firefight/causing my wife pain</u>         |
| 5   | 2) RATE STRESS (your general feeling of being pressured or overwhelmed):<br>Low stress: 1 2 3 4 5 High stress<br>What I find most stressful is: <u>Getting over it and everything else in my life</u>                                      |
| 4   | 3) RATE AGITATION (emotional urgency; feeling that you need to take action; <u>not</u> irritation; <u>not</u> annoyance):<br>Low agitation: 1 2 3 4 5 High agitation<br>I most need to take action when: <u>After a fight with my wife</u> |
| 3   | 4) RATE HOPELESSNESS (your expectation that things will not get better no matter what you do):<br>Low hopelessness: 1 2 3 4 5 High hopelessness<br>I am most hopeless about: <u>Ever being over what happened there</u>                    |
| 2   | 5) RATE SELF-HATE (your general feeling of disliking yourself; having no self-esteem; having no self-respect):<br>Low self-hate: 1 2 3 4 5 High self-hate<br>What I hate most about myself is: <u>How I make my wife feel</u>              |
| N/A | 6) RATE OVERALL RISK OF SUICIDE: Extremely low risk (will not kill self) 1 2 3 4 5 Extremely high risk (will kill self)  |

How much is being suicidal related to thoughts and feelings about yourself? Not at all: 1 2 3 4 5 completely

How much is being suicidal related to thoughts and feelings about others? Not at all: 1 2 3 4 5 completely

Please list your reasons for wanting to live and your reasons for wanting to die. Then rank in order of importance 1 to 5.

| Rank | REASONS FOR LIVING | Rank | REASONS FOR DYING     |
|------|--------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 1    | wife               | 1    | my wife               |
| 2    | family             | 2    | I'm a scumbag         |
|      |                    | 3    | what I did over there |
|      |                    |      |                       |
|      |                    |      |                       |

I wish to live to the following extent: Not at all: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 very much

I wish to die to the following extent: Not at all: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 very much

The one thing that would help me no longer feel suicidal would be: getting rid of the guilt

CAMS Suicide Status Form—SSF IV (Copyright David A. Jobes, Ph.D. All Rights Reserved)

**CAMS Suicide Status Form—SSF IV (Initial Session—page 2)**

**Section B (Clinician):**

☒ N Suicide plan: When: at night, after work, after fight w/ wife, drinking  
Where: at home, sometime in basement (ETOI)  
How: hand gun "glock" ☒ N Access to means  
How: gun in mouth ☒ N Access to means

☒ N Suicide Preparation Describe: has a will, no specific prep

☒ N Suicide Rehearsal Describe: yes, put gun in mouth 10-20 x p fights

☒ N History of Suicidality

- Ideation Describe: every day  
Frequency: 2-3 per day \_\_\_\_\_ per week \_\_\_\_\_ per month  
Duration: \_\_\_\_\_ seconds \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ hours
- Single Attempt Describe: 0
- Multiple Attempts Describe: 0

☒ N Current Intent Describe: after fight, when drunk

☒ N Impulsivity Describe: some history - watch this

☒ N Substance abuse Describe: 0 drugs 0 pot, drink w/ friends p work

☒ N Significant loss Describe: fired last work site, lost friends in combat

☒ N Interpersonal isolation Describe: had some drinking buddies

☒ N Relationship problems Describe: marriage

☒ N Burden to others Describe: to wife

☒ N Health problems Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ N Physical pain Describe: shrapnel in leg, pain

☒ N Legal problems Describe: owes on some credit cards

☒ N Shame Describe: across his life, to fire fight incident

**Section C (Clinician): TREATMENT PLAN (Refer to Sections A & D)**

| Problem # | Problem Description              | Goals and Objectives         | Interventions   | Duration |
|-----------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|----------|
| 1         | Self-Harm Potential              | Safety and Stability         | Stabilization<br>Plan Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 3 mos    |
|           | guilt of what happened in combat | Cope w/ guilt<br>↓ PTSD sx's | Tx PTSD sx's<br>PE? group?  | 3 mos    |
|           | marital distress                 | ↓ conflict in marriage       | Couples' treatment  | 3 mos    |

YES ☒ NO \_\_\_\_\_ Patient understands and concurs with treatment plan?

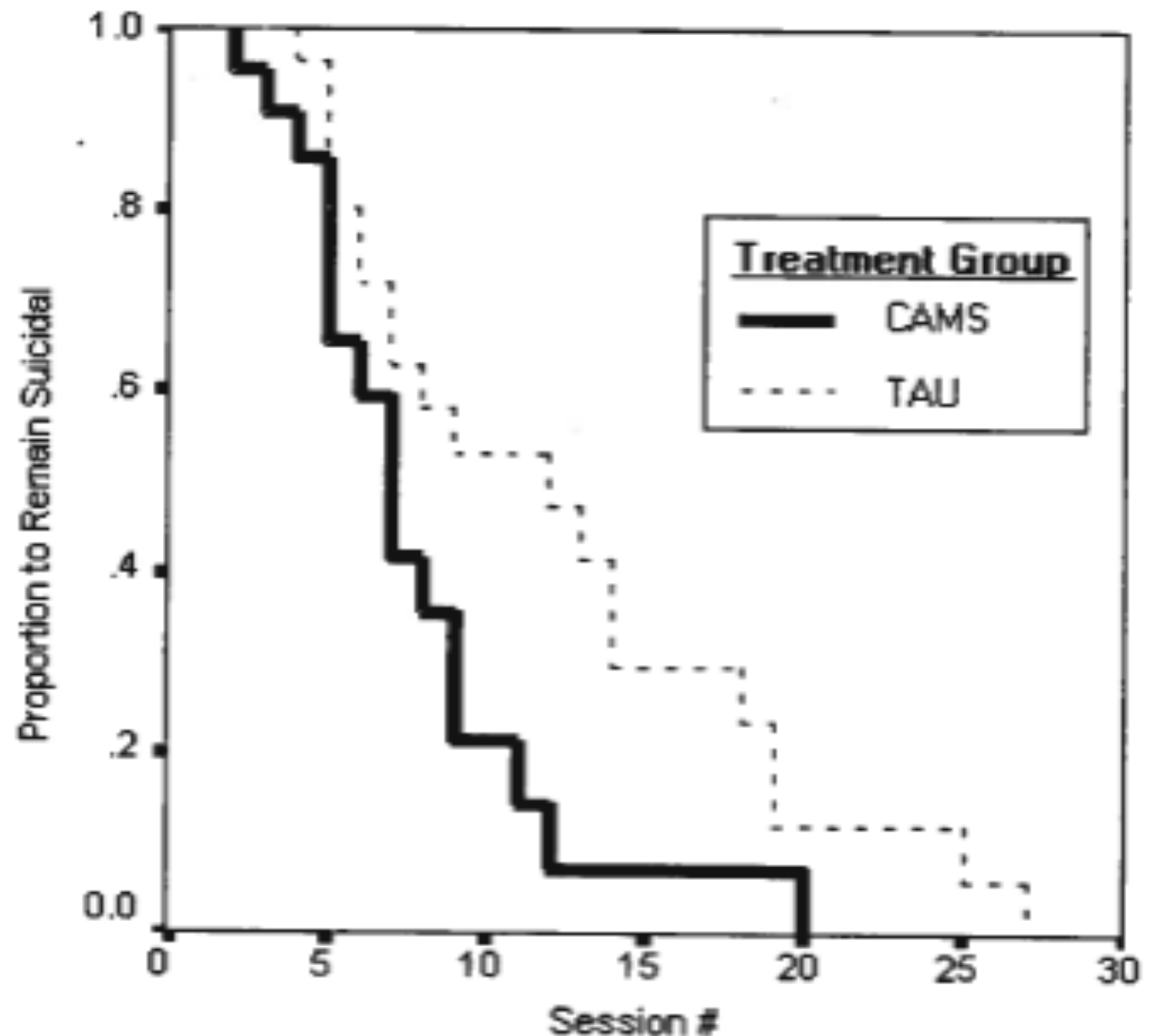
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO ☒ Patient at imminent danger of suicide (hospitalization indicated)?

Patient Signature: KJ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Clinician Signature: DJ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CAMS Suicide Status Form—SSF IV (Copyright David A. Jobes, Ph.D. All Rights Reserved)

Figure 1, Est. proportion of patients in the CAMS and TAU group to remain suicidal as a function of session number

CAMS patients reached resolution of suicidality about 4-6 weeks more quickly than treatment as usual patients.





# Randomized Controlled Trials of CAMS

| Principal Investigator  | Setting & Population                      | Design & Method                              | Sample Size | Status Update                 |
|-------------------------|---|--|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Comtois (Jobes)         | Harborview/Seattle CMH Patients           | CAMS vs.VTAU<br>Next Day Appts.              | 32          | ★ 2011 published article      |
| Andreasson (Nordentoft) | Danish Centers CMH patients               | DBT vs. CAMS<br>superiority trial            | 108         | ★ 2016 published article      |
| Jobes (Comtois et al)   | Ft. Stewart, GA<br>US Army Soldiers       | CAMS vs. E-CAU                               | 148         | ★ 2017 published article      |
| Ryberg (Fosse)          | Norwegian Centers<br>Outpatient/inpatient | CAMS vs. TAU                                 | 78          | ★ 2019 published article      |
| Pistorello (Jobes)      | Univ. Nevada (Reno)<br>College Students   | SMART Design<br>CAMS/TAU/DBT                 | 62          | ★ 2020 published article      |
| Comtois (Jobes)         | Harborview/Seattle<br>Suicide attempters  | CAMS vs. TAU<br>Post-Hospital<br>D/C         | 150         | ITT Complete; on-going assess |
| Santel et al            | German Crisis Unit<br>Inpatients          | CAMS vs. TAU                                 | 110         | ITT Complete; on-going assess |
| Depp et al              | San Diego VAMC<br>Walk In Veterans        | CAMS vs.<br>Outreach<br>Same Day<br>Services | 176         | RTC preparation on-going      |

# The Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS)

Replicated data across various clinical research studies show the CAMS approach to suicidal risk:

- Quickly reduces suicidal ideation in 6-8 sessions;
- Reduces overall symptom distress, depression, changes suicidal cognitions, and decreases hopelessness;
- Increases hope and improves clinical retention to care;
- Is liked by patients who use it;
- May be optimal for suicidal ideators;
- The best proven treatment for randomized trials
- Decreases Emergency Department (ED) visits among certain subgroups;
- Appears to have a promising impact on self-harm behavior and suicide attempts;
- Is relatively easy to learn, and become adherent.

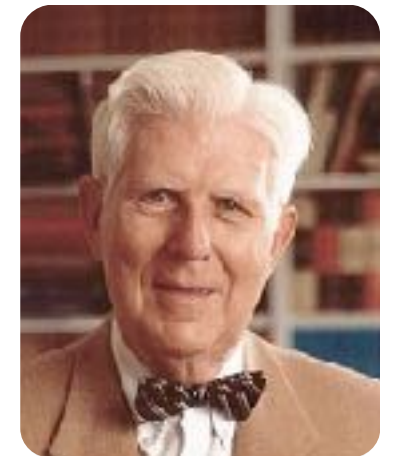
# Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Suicide

## Stage 1

- Creating a crisis plan
- Teaching the cognitive model
- Creating treatment goals



Gregory Brown



Aaron Beck

## Stage 2

- In depth focus on Suicidal behavior
- Cognitive restructuring, behavioral techniques
- Coping cards, Hope kit, behavioral coping skills
- Skills for tolerating distress - similar to DBT

# The CBT Model of the Suicidal Mode

## Predispositions

### Cognitive

Self-regard  
Cognitive flexibility  
Problem solving

### Behavioral

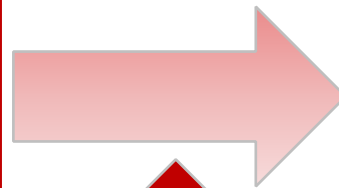
Prior attempts  
Emotion regulation  
Interpersonal skills

### Emotional

Psychiatric disorder  
Emotional lability  
HPA axis

### Physical

Genetics  
Medical conditions  
Demographics



## Trigger

Relationship problem  
Financial stress  
Perceived loss  
Physical sensation  
Negative memories

## Acute

### Cognitive

"This is hopeless"  
"I'm trapped"  
"I'm a burden"

### Behavioral

Substance use  
Social withdrawal  
Preparations

### Emotional

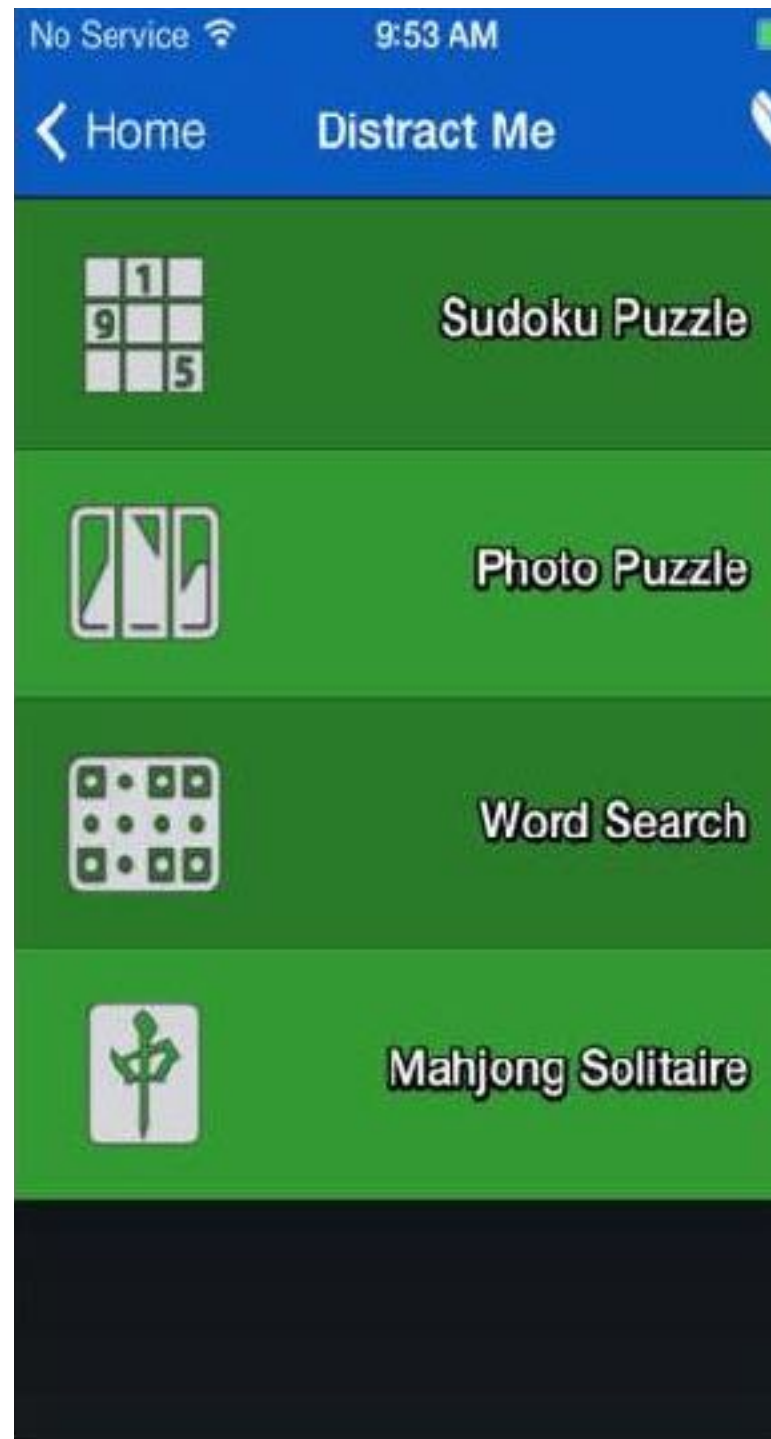
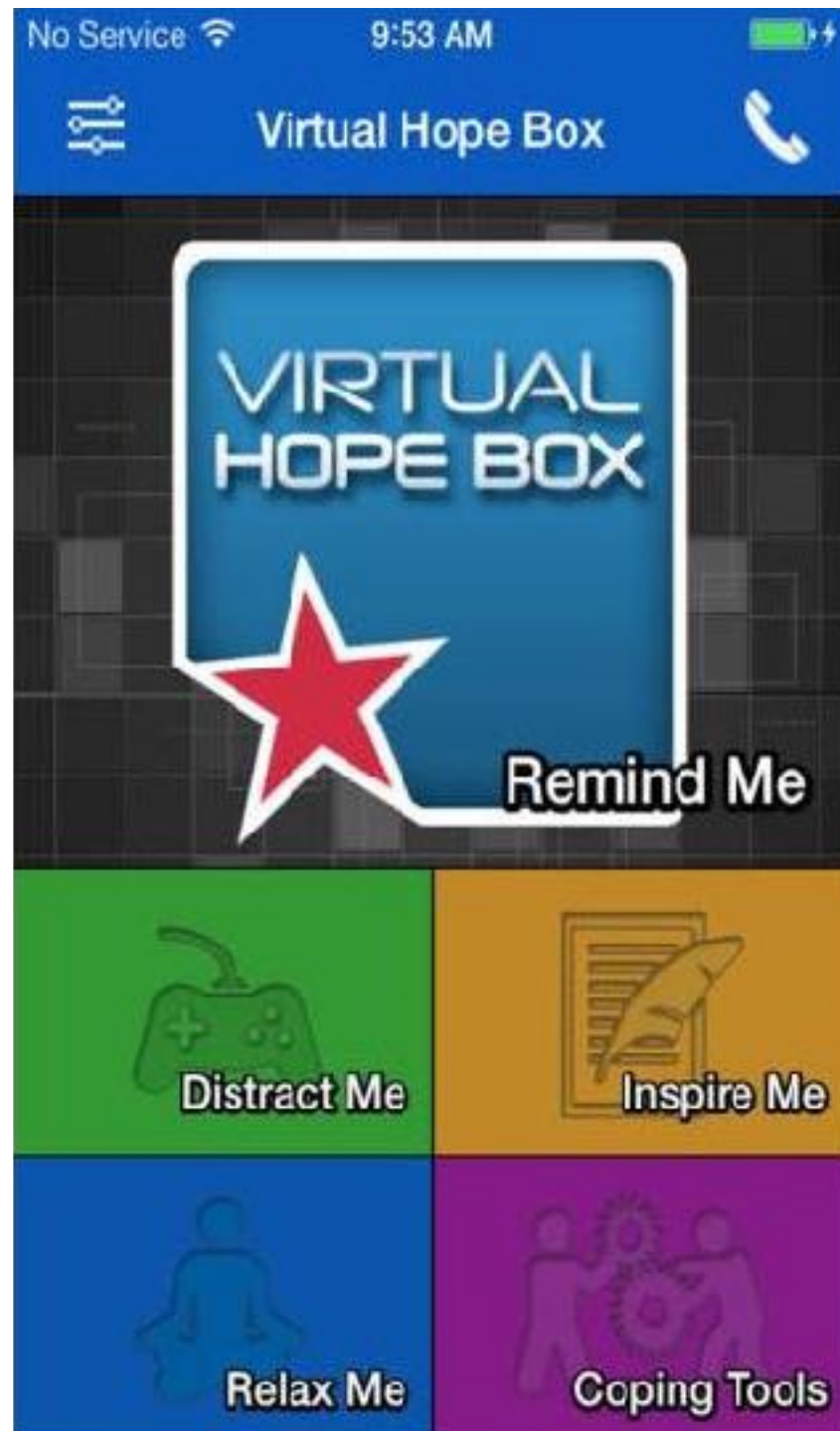
Depression  
Guilt  
Anger

### Physical

Agitation  
Insomnia  
Pain



# Virtual Hope Box App



# Study Design/Methodology

| Treatment As Usual<br>(TAU)                     | Crisis Response Plan<br>(CRP)                   | Crisis Response Plan +<br>Reasons for Living<br>(CRP+RFL) |
|---|---|---|
| Suicide risk assessment                         | Suicide risk assessment                         | Suicide risk assessment                                   |
| Supportive listening                            | Supportive listening                            | Supportive listening                                      |
|   | Identify warning signs                          | Identify warning signs                                    |
|   | Identify self-mgt skills                        | Identify self-mgt skills                                  |
|   |   | Identify reasons for living                               |
|   | Identify social support                         | Identify social support                                   |
| Crisis mgt education                            | Crisis mgt education                            | Crisis mgt education                                      |
| Referrals to treatment &<br>community resources | Referrals to treatment &<br>community resources | Referrals to treatment &<br>community resources           |

# Conclusions

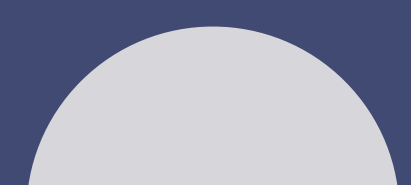
- Brief treatment can be as/more effective than traditional approaches
  - Safety not an issue
- Consistent with previous findings
  - Brown et al.
  - Linehan et al.
- Targeting suicidal behavior as skill deficit critical to success





**Additional**

**Treatment Approaches**





# Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)

## Dialectics:

- Helping clients find balance in emotions, thoughts, behavior and choices. Teaching them and showing them how to live in balance.

## Validation:

- Acknowledging another person's reality, noting that their thoughts feelings responses are real and valid in their own right.



**Marsha Linehan**

# Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT

## Components of DBT

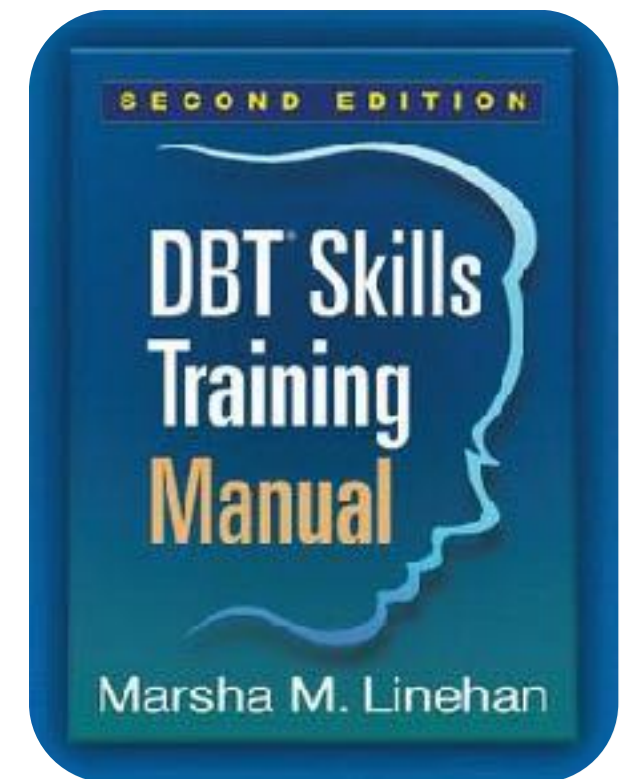
- Individual Treatment
- Group Skills Training
- Skills Coaching
- Consultation Team



# DBT: Weekly Group Meetings

Concentrate on Behavioral Skills in 4 areas:

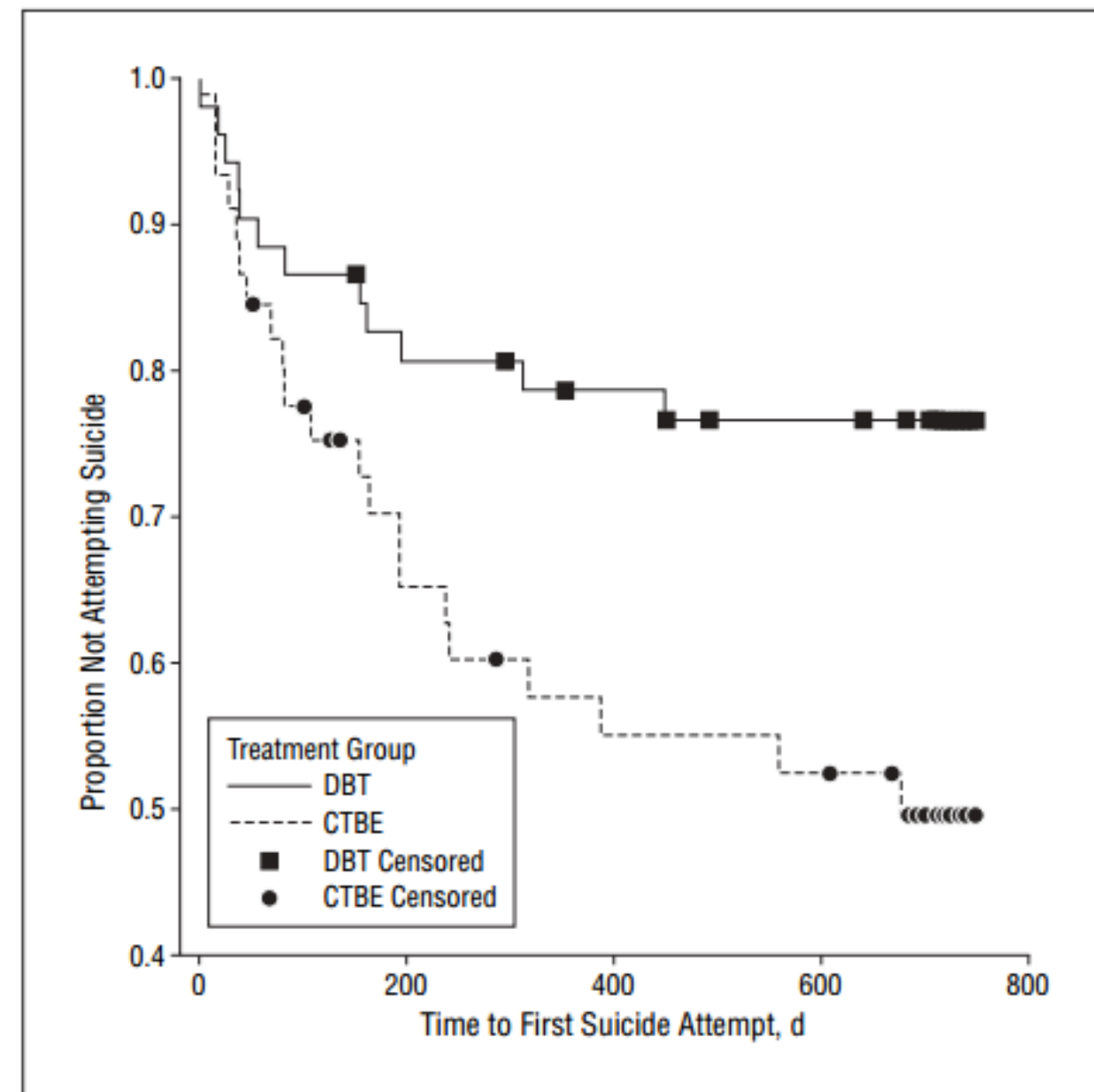
- 1) Interpersonal effectiveness skills
- 2) Distress tolerance skills
- 3) Emotion-regulation skills
- 4) Mindfulness skills



# DBT appears to be uniquely effective in reducing suicide attempts.

## Conclusions and Relevance:

A variety of DBT interventions with therapists trained in the DBT suicide risk assessment and management protocol are effective for reducing suicide attempts and NSSI episodes. Interventions that include DBT skills training are more effective than DBT without skills training, and standard DBT may be superior in some areas.\*

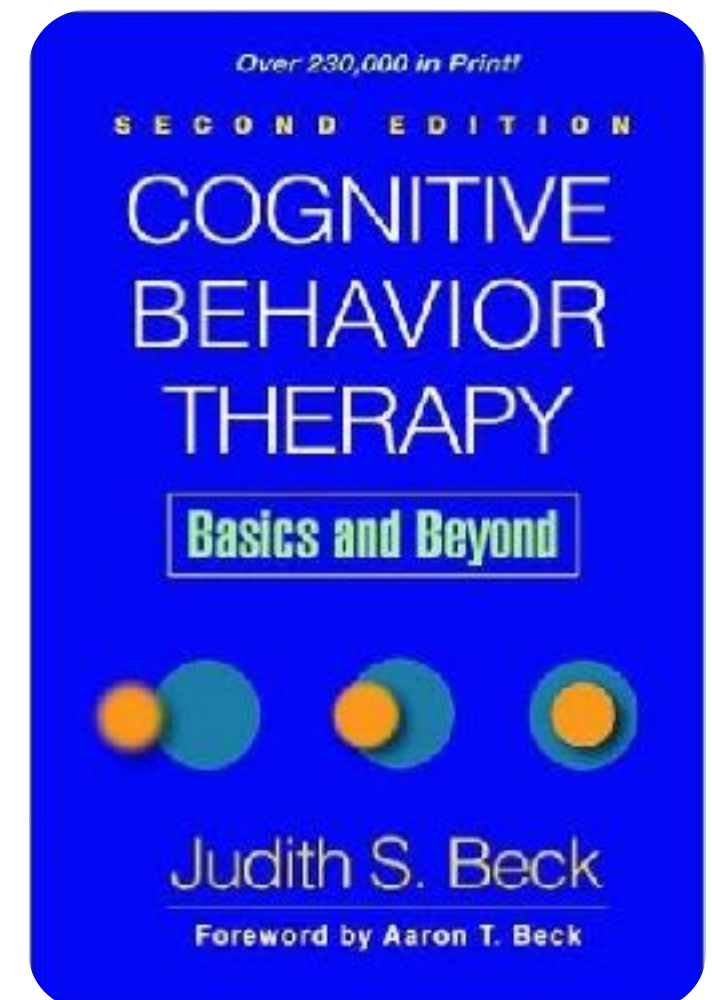


**Figure 3.** Survival analysis for time to first suicide attempt. The treatment period ended at 365 days, and the follow-up period ended at 730 days. CTBE indicates community treatment by experts; DBT, dialectical behavior therapy.



# Cognitive Therapy: Basics and Beyond

It is vital to be alert to both verbal and nonverbal cues from the patient, so as to be able to elicit **hot cognitions**” – that is, important automatic thoughts and images that arise in the therapy session itself and are associated with a change or increase in emotion. Eliciting the hot cognitions are important because they often have critical importance in conceptualization.”



# Emotion Focused Therapy (EFT)

- Emotion-focused therapy (EFT , focuses primarily on **eliciting emotion by directing the client to amplify his or her self-critical statements.**
- For example, if the client says “you’re worthless” or sneers while criticizing, direct the client to “do this again...,” “do this some more...”; “put some words to this...” This operation will **intensify the client’s affective arousal and help access core criticisms.**





# VOICE Therapy

## **Cognitive/Affective/ Behavioral Approach**



## **Voice Therapy**

**A Psychotherapeutic  
Approach to Self-Destructive Behavior**

**Robert W. Firestone Ph.D.**

**Robert W. Firestone Ph.D.**

# The Therapeutic Process in Voice Therapy

## Step 1

Identify the content of the person's negative thought process. The person is taught to articulate his or her self-attacks in the second person. The person is encouraged to say the attack as he or she hears it or experiences it. If the person is holding back feelings, he or she is encouraged to express them.



# The Therapeutic Process in Voice Therapy

## Step 2

The person discusses insights and reactions to verbalizing the voice. The person attempts to understand the relationship between voice attacks and early life experience.



# The Therapeutic Process in Voice Therapy

## Step 3

The person answers back to the voice attacks, which is often a cathartic experience. Afterwards, it is important for the person to make a rational statement about how he or she really is, how other people really are, what is true about his or her social world.





# The Therapeutic Process in Voice Therapy

## Step 4

The person develops insight about how the voice attacks are influencing his or her present-day behaviors.



# The Therapeutic Process in Voice Therapy

## Step 5

The person then collaborates with the therapist to plan changes in these behaviors. The person is encouraged to not engage in self-destructive behavior dictated by his or her negative thoughts and to also increase the positive behaviors these negative thoughts discourage.





# The Self vs the Anti-Self

Self

Anti-Self





# Self-Compassion

## A Healthier Way of Relating to Yourself



**Kristin Neff**

From Kristin Neff:

Self-compassion is not based on self-evaluation. It is not a way of judging ourselves positively; it is a way of relating to ourselves kindly.

Being touched by and not avoiding your suffering”

# Self-Compassion

Three Elements:

1. Self-kindness vs. Self-judgment
2. Mindfulness vs. Over-identification with thoughts
3. Common humanity vs. Isolation



SOURCE: <http://www.self-compassion.org/>

# Interpersonal Neurobiology

Curious  
Open  
Accepting  
Loving



Daniel Siegel, M.D.





# Most Helpful Aspects from Client Perspective

## Validating Relationships

Participants describe the existence of an affirming and validating relationship as a catalyst for reconnection with others and with oneself. A difficult part of the recovery process was breaking through, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral barriers that participants had generated for survival.



# Most Helpful Aspects from Client Perspective

## Working with Emotions

Dealing with the intense emotions underlying suicidal behavior was perceived as crucial to participant's healing. The resolution of despair and helplessness was a pivotal and highly potent experience for all participants in the study. Almost paradoxically, if a client did not receive acknowledgement of these powerful and overwhelming feelings, they reported being unable to move beyond them.





# Most Helpful Aspects from Client Perspective

## Developing Autonomy and Identity

Participants identified understanding suicidal behaviors, developing self-awareness, and constructing personal identity as key components of the therapeutic process. Participants conceptualized the therapeutic experience as confronting and discarding negative patterns while establishing new, more positive ones.



# Common Emotions Experienced in Suicide Grief

- Shock
- Guilt
- Despair
- Stress
- Rejection
- Confusion
- Helplessness
- Denial
- Anger
- Disbelief
- Sadness
- Loneliness
- Self-Blame
- Depression
- Pain
- Shame
- Hopelessness
- Numbness
- Abandonment
- Anxiety

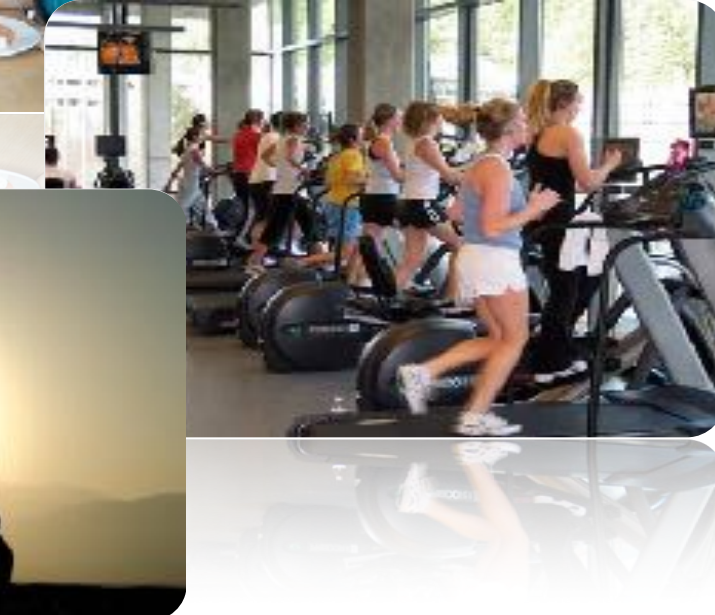
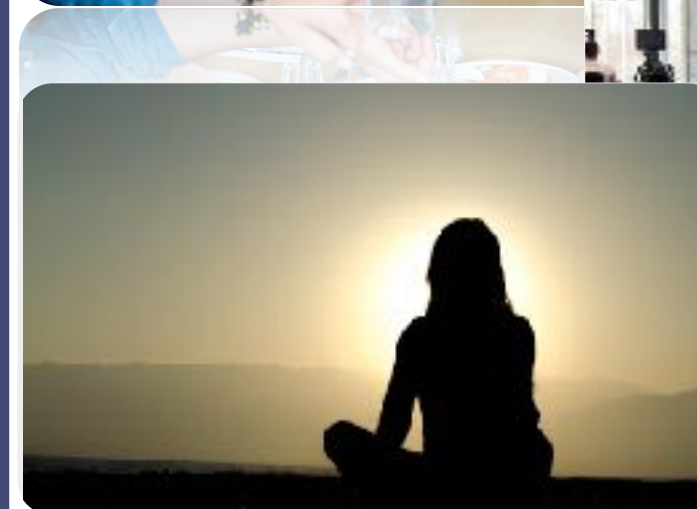
These feelings are normal reactions, and the expression of them is a natural part of grieving.

Grief is different for everyone.

There is no fixed schedule or one way to cope.

# Self-Care & Help Seeking Behaviors

- Ask for help
- Talk to others
- Get plenty of rest
- Drink plenty of water, avoid caffeine
- Do not use alcohol and other drugs
- Exercise
- Use relaxation skills





# Resources

# Useful Resources



National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention

[www.actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org/](http://www.actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org/)



American Association of Suicidology

[www.suicidology.org/](http://www.suicidology.org/)



AFSP American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

[www.afsp.org/](http://www.afsp.org/)



IASP Suicide Survivor Organizations (listed by country)

[www.iasp.info/resources/Postvention/National\\_Suicide\\_Survivor\\_Organizations/](http://www.iasp.info/resources/Postvention/National_Suicide_Survivor_Organizations/)



Suicide Prevention Resource Center

[www.sprc.org](http://www.sprc.org)



**ZERO Suicide in Health and Behavioral Health Care**



# Suicide Treatment During Covid-19

## Useful Links:

- [Managing Suicidal Clients During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Protocol for Using the CAMS Framework™ within Telepsychology](#)



# Useful Resources



National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
(Call or Chat online)

[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

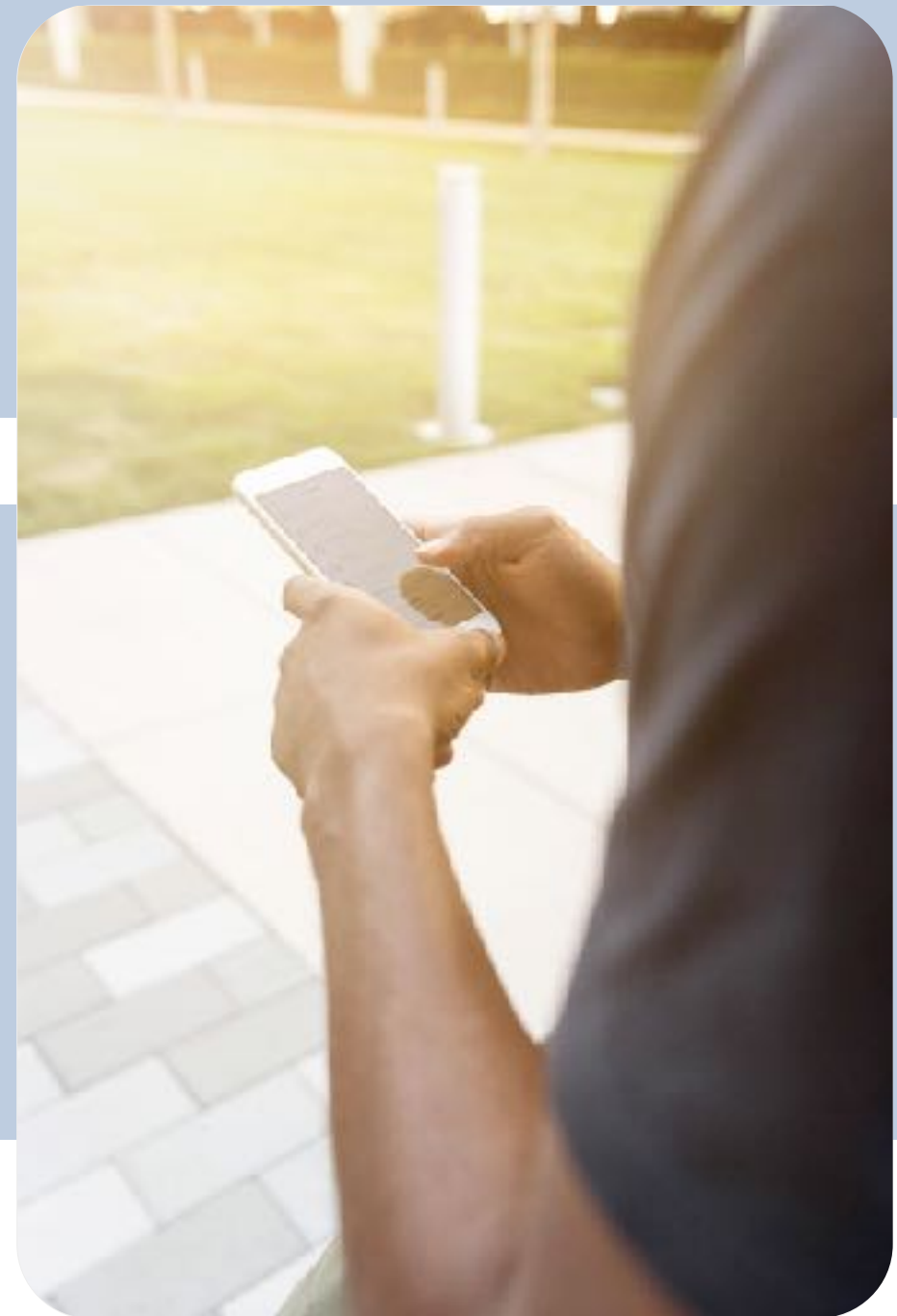
1-800-273-TALK (8255)



Crisis Text Line

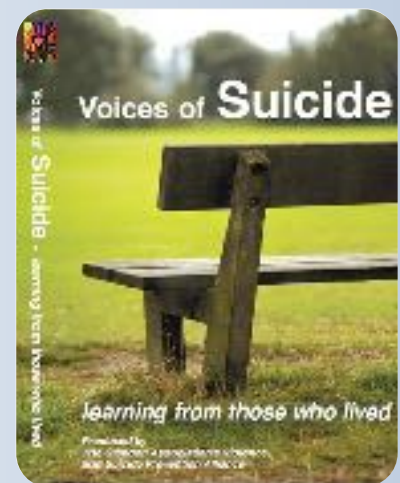
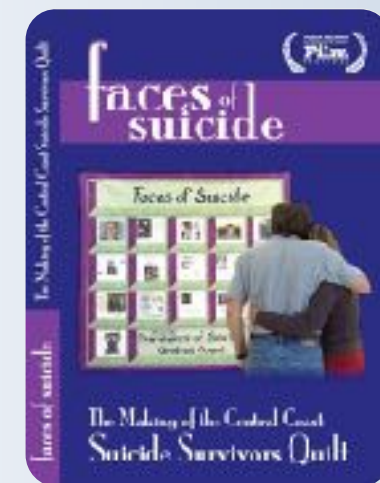
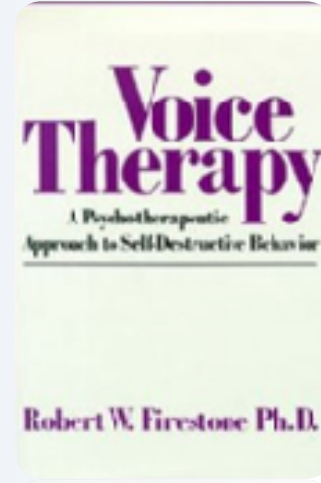
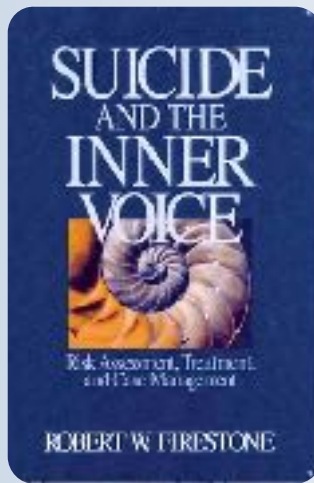
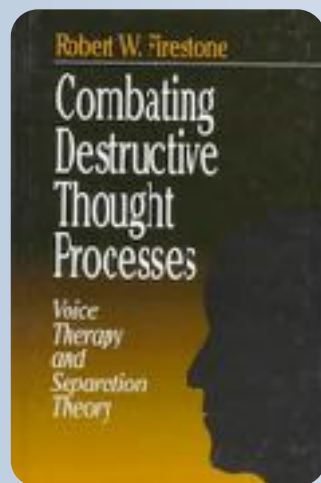
[www.crisistextline.org](http://www.crisistextline.org)

Text CONNECT to 741741



# Resources

## Books



## Webinars

Live, archived, free, and CE Webinars can be watched at [PsychAlive.org](http://PsychAlive.org)

Visit [www.PsychAlive.org](http://www.PsychAlive.org)  
for these resources and more

# eCourse



## SUICIDE: Effective Risk Assessment and Intervention

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Father Greg Boyle  
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# THANK YOU!

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