**Intervention**

A concern about a student may come to the attention of the school team in many ways: a friend may express concern, a teacher notice changes, a parent may call. At that time, assume a risk is present and begin the process. Minimally, the Suicide Risk Observation form is completed and the parents are contacted.

The plan includes a flow chart of concern, interview questions, Suicide Risk Observation, Intervention Report; Parent/Guardian Plan of Action, and a Follow-up Visit form.

The assessment should take place in a private comfortable area. The forms and questionnaires are provided as a framework for collecting information. The suggested interview questions are designed to answer the questions on the Suicide Risk Observation form. The interviewer may wish to introduce the questions with a statement such as:

*“I am concerned about you and your well-being. At this time, I am going to ask some questions in order to help provide some additional support/help. These questions are not designed to get you in trouble.”*

Some students may be uncomfortable if the interviewer is actively taking notes during the conversation. The forms are structured to be completed after the interview takes place in order to avoid raising suspicions and opposition. If a student maintains an attitude of non-compliance and/or hostility about answering the interview questions, the interviewer should assume moderate/high risk.

**Sharing Interview Results with Parents**

Parent contact is a requirement of suicide intervention. A parent’s greatest fear is that something may happen to harm their child. When discussing the possibility of self-harm and suicide, parents may have many different reactions. It is anticipated that most parents will join the school team in looking at risk factors and share their concerns about their student.

At the completion of the interview, if the risk is deemed to be low, a phone call alerting the parents may be sufficient.

Moderate and high risk categories require direct contact. The Intervention Report; Parent/Guardian Plan of Action form (required) asks for a commitment from the parent for action. Parents will be provided with information for a mental health/hospital assessment and county resources. The counselor/psychologist/social worker will also make an appointment with the student for a follow-up visit at school. If the risk is “high” and the interviewer has intense concerns about the student’s immediate safety, the parent is asked to commit to transporting the student immediately for an emergency assessment. If the parent is unwilling or unable to transport the student, or if the parent cannot or will not commit to immediate response, the school team may contact community resources in order to insure the student’s safety (DCF, SRO, or 911).

If the student is 18 years-old and without a parent or guardian, and refuses to seek an assessment, call our community’s adult mental health center, Valeo, and ask the student to visit with a counselor over the phone. If the Valeo counselor believes the student should come in for an assessment, and the student still refuses to go, the SRO may become involved. The SRO and Valeo can use the Crisis Team at Valeo for assistance. DCF can also be notified through adult protective services. The school personnel will contact the first contact person in PowerSchool. The parents could choose to go through the process of having their child involuntary committed through the court system.