

The School Threat Assessment Evaluation Morning Session II

The Real Anger Issues

Abuse
Community Trauma
Attachment
Temperament
Pediatric Bipolar
Disorder
Prodromal Syndrome
Internalized Anger (girls)
Teasing/Bullying

Eval Data Gathering

- Interview
- Parent Interview
- Psy Testing (TBD)
- Educational Records/Collateral
- Pediatric Records/Collateral
- Mental Health Records/Collateral
- Digital Data (Texting/Apps/Social Media)

Psychological Testing & Structured Professional Judgement

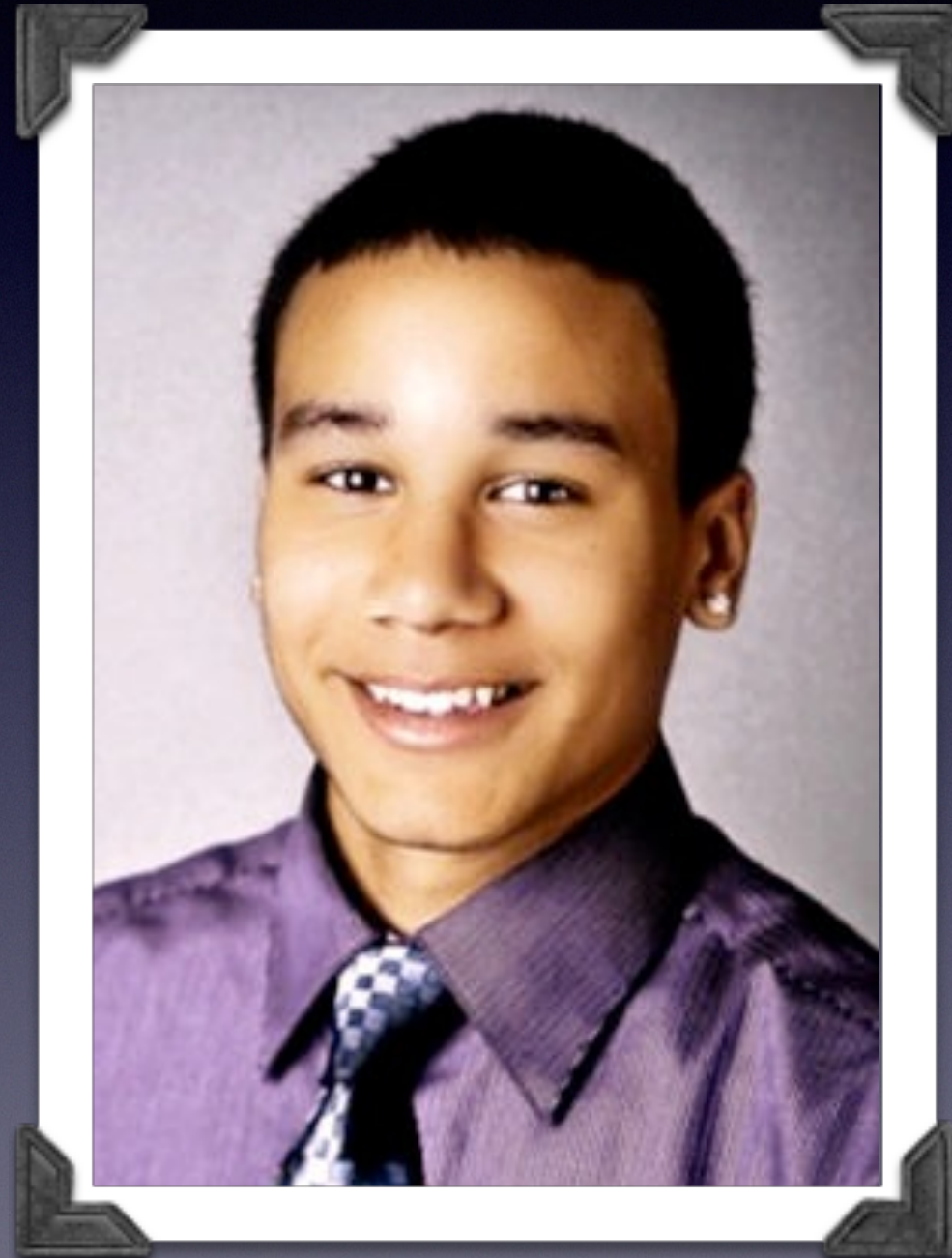
- PAI-A (tends to under-pathologize)
- SAVRY (SPJ)
- Specialty Areas (ASD/Prodromal/Bipolar/Sociopathy)

SAVRY

- 12-18 yrs
- The SAVRY is a structured professional judgment violence risk assessment instrument.
- Four main domains: Historical, Social/Contextual, Individual/Clinical, Protective
- Produces three categories for risk: low, moderate, and high.

Case Study

- Robert Butler: January 6, 2011
- 4-5 Shots [AP, Principal, Custodian, School Security (unarmed)].
- AP Vicki Kaspar died.
- Principal Curtis Case survived.



Butler's facebook Post

- Everybody that used to know me, I'm sorry, but Omaha changed me and (expletive) me up and the school I now attend is even worse. You are going to hear about the evil (expletive) I did, but that (expletive) school drive me to this. I want you guys to remember me for who I was before this. I know I greatly affected the lives of the families I ruined, but I'm sorry. Goodbye.



Known Risk Factors

- Disciplinary problems at home;
- Disciplinary problems at school;
- Divorce/remarriage;
- Access to weapon;
- Destruction of school property.

Bronx School Stabbing: 9/27/17



Challenges

- A principle difficulty of assessing risk in school environments is a **low base rate**, and the **absence of consistent psychological characteristics**. This was first demonstrated in the school shooters.

Threat Assessment Issues

Perpetrators of pre-conceived violence focused on individuals, groups, or locations engage in behaviors that precede and are related to their attacks. They consider, plan and prepare before engaging in acts of violence.

Threat Assessment Issues

*These behaviors are often
detectable.*

Assessment Issues

*Provides for opportunity of **disruption** of the intended violence.*

Assessment Procedures

Actions
1. Evaluate threat
2. Transient or substantive
3. Respond to transient threat
4. If substantive, decide seriousness
5. Respond to serious substantive threat
6. Respond to very serious substantive threat: <i>Consider Independent Forensic Evaluation</i>
7. Implement A Safety Plan

Threat Assessment Components

- Interview of Student Making Threat
- Psychological Testing-*As indicated*
- Review of Records
- Collateral Interviews
- Physical Evidence (locker, home, computers, smart phones, journal)

Record Review

- Educational Records
- Medical/Mental Health Records
- Legal (arrest affidavit/statements)
- Computer/Phone/Social Media
- Financial

Collateral Interviews

- Parents
- Victim
- Witnesses/Peers/Friends/Enemies
- Teachers/Staff/SRO
- Bus Driver
- Coaches
- Probation Officer

Interview of Student-Clinical Presentation

- Depression/Suicide
- Stress/Coping/Resources
- Anger Control/Mood Regulation
- Aggressive Behavior
- Interest in Violence
- Psychotic Symptoms/Dissociation

Psychological Testing

- Clinical Symptoms
- Personality Structure
- Self-Appraisal

Parent Interview

- Similar areas as student interview
- Access to weapons (2 homes?)
- Capacity to monitor & engage
- Developmental History
- Recent Losses, Family trauma, Family stress
- Appraisal of child

Threat Management

- Fitness for Reintegration
- Risk Management
- Safety Mitigation
- Behavioral Support Planning
- Supervision/Monitoring
- Educational/Vocational
- Treatment (Clinical, Family, Addiction)