AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF SUICIDOLOGY

AAS is a membership organization for all those involved in suicide prevention and intervention, or touched by suicide. AAS is a leader in the advancement of scientific and programmatic efforts in suicide prevention through research, education and training, the development of standards and resources, and survivor support services.

Psychological Autopsy Certification Training Program

Training Dates: Friday-Saturday, October 21-22, 2011 (8:00 am – 4:30 pm Daily)*

Location: Executive Conference and Training Center, Dulles, VA

Course Announcement

Developed in 1968 by AAS's founding president, Dr. Edwin Shneidman, and refined over the years since, the psychological autopsy has become a best practice postmortem procedure to reconstruct the proximate and distal causes of an individual's death by suicide or to ascertain the most likely manner of death where that manner of death is equivocal and left undetermined by a medical examiner or coroner. The psychological autopsy, furthermore, helps promote understandings to the often-asked "why?" question raised by survivors regarding the suicide of their loved one, is used in case-control research studies to better ascertain risk factors for suicide, and helps to answer questions of causation in both individual cases (e.g. where negligence may be alleged) of suicide and interconnections between cases (as in clusters of suicides), hence lessons learned to inform prevention efforts.

Initial Certification Training Course

AAS is offering its initial certificate training course on **October 21-22, 2011 (Friday-Saturday)**. The course is designed as a 2-day, face-to-face training program in the psychological autopsy leading to certification as a *Certified Psychological Autopsy Investigator*. The training course will teach the historical foundations to and development of the psychological autopsy; its applications in clinical, research, and forensic settings; the distinctions between the psychological autopsy and parallel procedures; common methodologies for its use in manner of death determinations, to assist survivors, in cluster analyses, in case-control research, etc.; and its methodological limitations. Registrants will be trained to administer a model, semi-structured interview protocol (and view variations to this) and will practice administering a protocol-based interview. Further, registrants will be instructed on the use of associated consent and release forms and on procedures to gather ancillary archived records regarding a decedent.

To complete the certification process, trainees will be further required to independently conduct and submit a completed psychological autopsy case study/report post-training evidencing appropriate interpretation of findings from protocol-based interviews and archived records. If trainees do not have independent access to a case for study, when and if possible AAS will offer opportunity to the registrant to gain access to a case study by participating in a current AAS Psychological Autopsy project. No fee for this will be charged to the participant and no wages for participation will be paid to the registrant.

Certification

Registrants certified through the AAS Psychological Autopsy Certification Program may, thereafter, list their certification from AAS as a credential that offers assurance to potential contractors and employers that one has demonstrated training and expertise in the use of this procedure. Certified individuals will be offered inclusion in an AAS roster of certified psychological autopsy investigators, hence may be offered opportunity to conduct psychological autopsy investigations at registrant-designated fees on AAS psychological autopsy projects.

The cost of this certification training will be more than repaid with just one fee-based psychological autopsy.

Initial certification is good for 3 years. An annual fee ($100) to maintain certification in good standing is required after year 1. Renewal certification will be granted for a five year period (at an annual $100 fee or a one-time five-year fee of $400) upon submission of evidence of a minimum of one psychological autopsy study in clinical, research, forensic, or other settings during the 1st three years.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this training, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the history and purposes of the psychological autopsy as a postmortem investigatory tool.
- Identify the procedures used in the conduct of a psychological autopsy investigation.
- Effectively implement a psychological autopsy protocol and associated procedures to conduct, analyze, and understand how and why an individual died in the manner they did

Applicant Registration Requirements:

Registrants must possess a minimum of a Masters degree in a social sciences/behavioral health field OR current employment consistent with the opportunity to conduct psychological autopsies (a CV is required with this application), e.g. law enforcement, medical examiner system, etc. If the applicant is unsure whether they meet the minimum requirement for admission to the training course, submit a cover letter and copy of CV to Dr. Berman at berman@suicidology.org and a case-by-case decision regarding eligibility will be made.

Registration Fees:

- Training fees include all course materials, two days of face-to-face training (13 contact hours), a post-training review of a submitted case protocol and report, continuing education credits, final certification (with certificate), breakfast and lunch daily, and unlimited daily beverage and snack breaks during training.
- *AAS members receive a registration fee discount*. Non-members may register at the AAS member rate if they concurrently join AAS, also at a discounted first year dues rate (see the form below -- Regular Dues are $150 for full members and $75 for students). Membership Dues include a subscription to AAS's bimonthly peer-reviewed journal, *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, two quarterly newsletters, and discounts to the annual AAS conference, other trainings, resources and products.
- Students must be matriculated full-time in a degree-granting program and submit copy of student ID with this application.

Cancellation Fee:

Registrations cancelled by August 31 will receive a full refund less an administrative fee of $150.

Registrations cancelled after September 1 will not be refunded.

Accommodations:

We are asking that out-of-town participants reserve their rooms through AAS to reduce the overall cost of the conference package. Lodging is located at the Hampton Inn and Suites, immediately adjacent to the Conference Center, at a nightly rate of $155 inclusive of state and local taxes, and complimentary wireless Internet access, on-site parking, and use of the fitness center.

Registration Deadline:

September 23, 2011. *Early registration is highly encouraged as space is limited.*

Group Training:

If your organization or a group of organizations has a number of candidates who would like to gain certification, you may arrange a training session at your location; please contact AAS to work out potential dates and costs.

Training Center:

The Executive Conference and Training Center is located 2 miles from Dulles International Airport *Complimentary shuttle service is available to and from Dulles Airport as well as nearby restaurants and local attractions.* The Center offers complimentary parking. All registrants will receive an executive continental breakfast, full buffet lunch, and morning and afternoon beverage and snacks as part of their registration fee.

Continuing Education Credits:

Certified Counselors: AAS is recognized by the National Board for Certified Counselors to offer continuing education for National Certified Counselors. We adhere to NBCC Continuing Education Guidelines.

Psychologists: This program is sponsored by the American Association of Suicidology. The American Association of Suicidology is an organization approved by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing education for psychologists. The American Association of Suicidology maintains responsibility for the program.

Social Workers: Application pending.

AAS Psychological Autopsy Certification Training Registration Form

Name: _____

Organization:_____

Street Address: _____

City/State or Province/Postal Code/Country (if not US): _____

_____

Highest degree: __ BS/BA __MS/MA/MSW __MPH __ PhD/PsyD __MD/DO __ Other: _____

Profession: _____

If Full-time student, check here and enclose copy of student ID _____

REGISTRATION			
Registrant Category	**Fee**	**+ Discounted AAS Membership Dues**	**Enter fee**
AAS Member	$670		
Non-Member	$745		
Non-Member +	$670	+ $135	
AAS Student Member	$405		
Student Non-Member	$450		
Student Non-Member +	$405	+ $65	$
ACCOMMODATIONS (includes meals)			
Thursday October 20	$155		$
Friday October 21	$155		$
Saturday October 22	$155		$
TOTAL			$

Payment may be remitted by check, purchase order (payable to AAS, in US Funds) or by credit card (Visa, Master Card, or American Express).

__ I have enclosed a check for the full amount

__ I am paying by purchase order #_____

__ I am paying by credit card __ VISA __ MASTERCARD __ AMERICAN EXPRESS

Card No. _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name as it appears on card: _____ Signature: _____

Submit registration form, copy of CV, and applicable fee, to:

Mail to:

Ms. Andrea Price, AAS, 5221 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington, DC, USA, 20015

Fax to: (if paying by credit card only)

Ms. Andrea Price at 202-237-2282

Confirmation of registration will be e-mailed upon processing