HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS’ KNOWLEDGE OF ADOLESCENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

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PROJECT

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HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS’ KNOWLEDGE OF ADOLESCENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

A Project

by

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Division of Social Work
Abstract

of

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS’ KNOWLEDGE OF ADOLESCENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

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This study examined the knowledge of 48 high school teachers from the same rural community in California about risk factor and warning signs associated with adolescent suicide. A quantitative positivist approach survey research design was used in this study. The most recognized risk factors were abuse, depression, and previous suicide attempts. The least recognized risk factors were students with learning disabilities, special education students, and students in the gifted programs; only about one-third of the teachers recognize that these students are at increased risk for suicide. The findings suggest that high school teachers need more training on the subject of adolescent suicide awareness, prevention, and intervention. Implications for social work practice and policy, recommendations, and future research are also discussed.

_______________________, Committee Chair
Maria Dinis, Ph.D., MSW

_______________________
Date

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this project to the memory of Ryan Morgan,

beloved son, brother, friend, teammate, peer, and student.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank my husband, Dave, and my children, Jennifer and Jonathan, for believing in me. When things became difficult and I doubted my ability to finish this project, you were right there by my side, cheering me on and encouraging me to continue. Thank you for helping me to fulfill my dream of a college education. I love you all.

This venture in my life would never have happened if not for my beautiful daughter, Jennifer. Thank you for the life’s challenges you gave me while in your teens. Without those challenges, I would not be a Social Worker today. I love you and I would never change a minute of any of it.

I am thankful for my advisor, Maria Dinis, Ph.D., MSW, for her dedication to helping me pursue my educational dreams. I am grateful of her expertise and guidance; and I am especially appreciative of her patience and support. Thank you sincerely.

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