

A Life Lesson *in saving lives*

“ Dr. Banilivy’s course was instrumental in helping me assist my client during a critical time in her life. ”

Andrew R.

A valuable lesson learned and put to use at the right moment: That’s what happened recently and it may have saved a life!



Max Banilivy, Ph.D.

In September, Max Banilivy, Ph.D. Director of Training at PSCH/ Pederson-Krag Network, conducted *Safe Talk*, an internationally recognized suicide-alertness seminar which prepares anyone over the age of 15 to become suicide alert. One of those in attendance was Andrew Reid, a senior case manager at PSCH.

Shortly after the seminar Andrew received a chilling call from a transgender consumer who called and said she “planned to kill herself.” Andrew took action by calling the consumer and keeping her on the phone while he rushed to the apartment. He also contacted the individual’s case manager; the two met at the consumer’s apartment and assessed her by utilizing ‘The Assist Suicide Intervention Model’ taught by Dr. Banilivy.

Remembering the techniques he had learned at the seminar, Andrew kept the consumer talking, asking her how she intended to end her life, pointing out the consumer’s positive qualities and praising the progress the consumer had made in managing her illness. The consumer— who was transitioning from female to male— felt neglected and abandoned by her parents, who had refused to accept the consumer’s transgender lifestyle.

After more conversation, Andrew contacted the **Suicide Hotline 800- 273-8255** and convinced the consumer to speak with a suicide intervention specialist. Together, they developed a treatment plan that involved psychiatric follow-up at St. Luke’s Hospital. Once Andrew was convinced the consumer was in a better state of mind and was past her immediate crisis, she left and followed up later that evening by phone.

The consumer continues to receive treatment and no longer wishes to end her life. “I honestly believe that Dr. Banilivy’s training course was instrumental in helping me assist my client during a critical time in her life,” says Andrew.

For more information on the Suicide Alertness seminar or to schedule one at your organization, call: **Dr. Max Banilivy 631-920-8039 mbanilivy@pedersonkrag.org** ■