

**Full-Day Set #5**

## **Uncovering Dangerous Secrets: Suicide, Violence, and Difficult Personality Disorders**

**Presenter: Shawn Christopher Shea, M.D.**

**For workshop inquiries contact us at:** [sheainterview@hughes.net](mailto:sheainterview@hughes.net)

**Intended Audience:** Appropriate for psychiatrists, counselors, psychologists, social workers, psychiatric nurses, case managers, substance abuse counselors, and all mental health trainees

### **Description**

This workshop provides front-line clinicians with the state of the art skills necessary to tackle some of the most difficult clinical situations facing experienced clinicians during the initial assessment. During the morning the focus will be on methods for uncovering problematic personality dysfunction. New life is given to the concept of object relations as innovative methods of applying object relations theory to the initial assessment are highlighted and described. This is followed by an in-depth look at rapid and sensitive methods of making an Axis II diagnosis in the first sixty minutes.

In the afternoon the focus shifts to direct methods of uncovering dangerous secrets. A large portion of the time is devoted to understanding five practical validity techniques: the behavioral incident, shame attenuation, gentle assumption, symptom amplification and denial of the specific. Dr. Shea demonstrates how these techniques provide powerful gateways for uncovering physical abuse, drug abuse, antisocial behavior, and incest. The final portion of the day is devoted to a demonstration of how these validity techniques can be woven into a specific strategy for eliciting suicidal ideation – the Chronological Assessment of Suicide Events (the CASE Approach). The highly acclaimed CASE Approach has been described by David Jobes Ph.D., a former President of the American Association of Suicidology, as follows:

“The CASE Approach moves the clinician almost imperceptibly into the secret internal workings of the mind and soul of the patient tormented by suicidal ideation. I believe that the CASE Approach is a remarkable conceptual and clinical contribution to the field of suicidology. It should be taught to any front-line clinician. It has the power to meaningfully save lives.”

All techniques will be clearly demonstrated through the use of videotape examples from actual client interviews.

## Objectives

- 1) Be able to apply object relations theory to the following critical interview tasks engaging the client, uncovering serious personality pathology, and determining possible treatment modalities.
- 2) Be able to utilize a flexible strategy for arriving at a differential diagnosis on Axis II of the DSM-IV-TR, when under the tight time constraints so common to everyday practice.
- 3) Recognize and be able to utilize the following five techniques for increasing validity: the behavioral incident, shame attenuation, gentle assumption, symptom amplification, and denial of the specific.
- 4) Be able to utilize flexible strategies for weaving the above five validity techniques into effective methods of uncovering sensitive material, such as antisocial behavior and violent ideation, while maintaining a powerful engagement.
- 5) Apply the CASE Approach to uncover hidden suicidal ideation, actions, and intent.

## Sample Schedule

<b>Registration</b>	8:30 - 9:00 a.m.
<b>Workshop I</b> Understanding Object Relations and Its Practical Use in the Initial Interview	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
<b>BREAK</b>	10:30 - 10:45 a.m.
<b>Workshop II</b> Interviewing Strategies for Rapidly and Sensitively Arriving at an Axis II Diagnoses	10:45 - 12:15 a.m.
<b>LUNCH</b>	12:15 - 1:15 p.m.
<b>Workshop III</b> Innovative Interviewing Techniques for Uncovering Sensitive Material and Antisocial Behavior	1:15 - 2:45 p.m.
<b>BREAK</b>	2:45 - 3:00 p.m.
<b>Workshop IV</b> The Delicate Art of Eliciting Suicidal Ideation	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

## The Speaker

Shawn Christopher Shea, M.D. is an internationally acclaimed workshop leader and educational innovator in the fields of suicide prevention, resiliency, clinical interviewing, and improving medication adherence having given over 850 presentations worldwide. He has been a recipient of an Outstanding Course Award presented by the American Psychiatric Association for his presentations at their annual meetings. He is a frequent presenter at the annual meeting of the American Association of Suicidology and at the Cape Cod Symposium where his course has received the highest evaluation of the thirty courses featured over the summer. He has also presented at the Santa Fe Symposium, the Door County Summer Institute, and the Muskoka Summer Seminar Series from McMaster University.

Dr. Shea is the author of six books and numerous articles including one of the classic texts in the field of suicide prevention, *The Practical Art of Suicide Assessment*. His works have been translated into a variety of languages as diverse as French, Greek, Japanese, and Chinese. Both editions of his book, *Psychiatric Interviewing: the Art of Understanding*, have been chosen by the Medical Library Association for the Brandon/Hill List as one of the 16 most important books in the field of psychiatry.

His book on creating resiliency in difficult times - *Happiness Is* - was chosen as a Brodart Library Gem, a Bowker's title to Watch, and as the Philosophy Book of the Month by the Radical Academy. Former Surgeon General C, Everett Koop, M.D., Sc.D. provided the foreword to Dr. Shea's latest book, *Improving Medication Adherence: How to Talk with Patients About Their Medications* which, in 2009, was chosen for Doody's Core Titles list of the most important books in the fields of medicine and nursing.

Dr. Shea is the Director of the Training Institute for Suicide Assessment and Clinical Interviewing ([www.suicideassessment.com](http://www.suicideassessment.com)), a training and consultation service providing workshops, consultations, and quality assurance design in mental health assessments. Dr. Shea is also in private practice.