



## The Alumni Development Program TRAINING ALUMNI

### Invites You To Attend SUICIDE PREVENTION FOR PEOPLE WITH IDD Statewide Continuing Education Workshop

**Friday, February 20, 2026 • 12 PM – 2 PM**

Join us for this educational and engaging session.

#### Talk Saves Lives presented by AFSP

The workshop “Talk Saves Lives” is an introduction to suicide prevention, highlighting risk factors, warning signs, and addressing what we can each do to support someone who is struggling with thoughts of suicide.



**Markita Madden** is the executive director for the Virginia Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). Markita started this work as a volunteer before transitioning to a staff role in 2022. She is a suicide loss survivor and believes wholeheartedly in the mission of AFSP, which is to “save lives and share hope with those affected by suicide.”

#### Suicide Prevention and Intervention Considerations for Young Adults with IDD

Suicide is a growing public health concern in the United States, and emerging evidence suggests that young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) may experience equal or heightened risk compared to their non-disabled peers. Despite this elevated vulnerability, suicidality among individuals with IDD remains underrecognized, underassessed, and undertreated across service systems.

This workshop provides an accessible, evidence-informed overview of suicide prevention and intervention considerations for young adults with IDD. The session will review national suicide trends, disability-related risk factors, common barriers to identification and focus on practical, actionable strategies for caregivers, educators, service providers, and allied professionals.



**Alexander (Alex) M. Fields, Ph.D.**, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Counselor Education in the College of Education at Florida Atlantic University. He is also a licensed mental health counselor (LMHC), a National Certified Counselor (NCC), an Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS), and a certified Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) trainer. He has diverse clinical experience supporting individuals, couples, and families across healthcare and educational settings, with a specific focus on individuals with disabilities and chronic illnesses.



### [Register to Attend](#)

*Meeting will be held virtually on Zoom.*

**For more information about this event, you can contact us at [training@vbpd.virginia.gov](mailto:training@vbpd.virginia.gov).**

Funding for this project/product was supported, in part, by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, under grant number 2301VASCDD-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.