



SBP Consulting, Inc.

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To: All agencies implementing TACT-2 training
Re: TACT-2 IMPLEMENTATION STANDARDS
Date: January 1, 2004

The following are standards for implementation of the Therapeutic Aggression Control Techniques (TACT-2) program, based upon research in physical safety, crisis intervention, and adult learning, as well as on the practical experience of TACT-2 trainers in the past 10 years. It is my intention that these standards will provide a safer and more thorough training experience for all trainees, and reduce the likelihood of unnecessary and possibly unsafe restraints with troubled youth.

Because the physical safety and emotional well-being of troubled youth and the staff who serve them is our highest priority, *it is my position that any use of the TACT-2 program which violates the following standards cannot be endorsed.* Staff attending training which is not in compliance with these standards will not be considered certified in TACT-2; trainers conducting such training will not be recertified after their initial certification expires.

- 1. LENGTH OF TRAINING:** Because of the importance of knowledge and skill development in verbal interventions, the TACT-2 program requires a minimum number of 20 hours of training. Trainers are required to spend approximately 6 hours on day 1 content (crisis prevention); 6 hours on day 2 content (verbal intervention); and 8 hours on day 3 content (physical intervention) with average groups of 8-16 trainees. Small groups (less than 6 trainees) may take less time, but under no circumstances should class time be reduced by more than 20%.
- 2. TRAINER-TRAINEE RATIO:** Because of the importance of thorough instruction and safe supervision of physical intervention techniques, trainers must maintain a ratio of no more than 1 trainer: 10 trainees when instructing self-protection techniques, and 1 trainer: 6 trainees when instructing escort and takedown techniques. If a second certified TACT-2 trainer is not available, trainers may utilize the assistance of no more than one skilled TACT-2 certified staff, provided s/he is carefully supervised. However, this individual may only assist, and may NOT actually conduct any portion of the TACT-2 training.
- 3. TESTING COMPETENCIES:** Because of the importance of demonstrable competence in crisis intervention techniques, trainees are required to attend all sessions, complete all exercises, and pass two assessments. The first is a written test of knowledge in verbal prevention and intervention, which trainees must pass at the 80% level. Those who do not pass the verbal test may be coached by their trainers, and later take a second form of the test. Trainees who cannot pass either form of the test must retake the course before progressing to physical training. The second assessment is an individual test of physical skills. Trainers are required to thoroughly assess and carefully document trainees' actual skill level.

Depending on their skills, trainees may be certified in Verbal TACT-2 only, Limited TACT-2 (verbal and limited physical techniques), or Full TACT-2 (verbal and all physical techniques). Trainees with limited certification may have their certifications upgraded if they are able to later master necessary skills.

4. DOCUMENTATION: Because of the importance of accountability and clear records, trainers are required to use the provided form (or a reasonable facsimile) to document the attendance, performance, and test scores of every trainee. This form must be faxed or mailed to Steve Parese within 30 days of completing training. Trainees will be considered certified in TACT-2 only after this form has been received.

5. TRAINER and TRAINEE RECERTIFICATION: Because of the importance of maintaining skills, certified trainers are required to (a) train at least one documented group per year and (b) attend an annual 1-day recertification in order to maintain certification. Trainees must complete (at a minimum) a 6-hour refresher or recertification annually, which must include at least 3 hours of verbal review (with a brief written test) and 3 hours of physical review (with an individual or group skills check out, at the trainer's discretion). Recertifications should be documented in the same manner as full trainings.

6. COPYRIGHT PROTECTION: Because of the importance of sharing valuable information, trainers are allowed to conduct brief informational workshops (limited to 60 minutes) on content based on the TACT-2 program. In addition, trainers are encouraged to freely use provided TACT-2 materials and TACT-2 activities to refresh or recertify staff previously trained in TACT-2. However, the TACT-2 trainer's manual and workbook are copyright protected, and so may not be duplicated without written permission of the author. Many of the concepts and activities expressed in the TACT-2 program are also protected by copyright, and may not be included in other trainings without permission of the author or original source.

I hope that you will view these standards as a means of assuring of your staff's thorough training and skills in managing student crises safely. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, please feel free to contact me at (336) 593-3533 or SBParese@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Steve Parese, Ed.D.