



## ***Modified Adolescent Therapeutic Community Model***

***After Newtown: Building Desistance from Gun Violence for Violent Offenders with Comorbid Psychiatric Disorders and Chemical Dependency.***



After Newtown Gun Violence Prevention Stakeholders,

If there is a failure in the US Congress to pass meaningful gun control legislation, could we have a dialog on how we can make existing mental health screening, assessment, monitoring, and treatment of clinical depression and anxiety disorders more accessible and effective for high risk for gun violence individuals ?

Thank you for allowing our team to inform After Newtown gun violence prevention stakeholders about mental health solutions we recently presented and demonstrated to the United States Congress (See email invite below)

These validated, evidence based solutions use HIPAA and FERPA compliant, anywhere, anytime Behavioral Health Data Portals (BHDP), computerized adaptive tests for mental health (CAT-MH) and SAMHSA National Registry Best Practices Modified Adolescent Therapeutic Community (MATC) to reduce the risk for suicide, gun violence and substance abuse among CT high risk populations with undiagnosed, unmonitored, and untreated psychiatric disorders and chemical dependency.

This first of three emails contains information on the efficacy for using the validated CAT-MH to diagnose offenders with depression, anxiety disorders and bi-polar disorders and continuously monitor and precisely measure the severity of these psychiatric disorders with real time alerts for the associated risk for suicide and other dangerous behaviors. (See attached Development of a Computerized Adaptive Test/Gibbons/Kupfer Bios)

Depression is often undiagnosed, untreated, and unmonitored in the CT juvenile and criminal justice systems despite being an acute precipitant of suicide, homicide, gun violence, and substance abuse. As many as 47% of youth in juvenile detention are affected by moderate-to-severe levels of depressive symptoms ([Domalanta, Risser, Roberts, & Risser, 2003](#)),

Unrecognized and untreated depression potentially impacts the criminal course of juvenile offenders, as depression has been shown to be associated with increased recidivism ([Clark-Jones, 1999](#); [Cocozza, 1992](#); [Whitbeck, Hoyt, & Bao, 2000](#)).

Offenders with depressive symptoms are a highly vulnerable group, being at an extreme risk for violent behavior, drug and alcohol abuse, suicide and serious criminality ([Capaldi, 1991, 1992](#); [Cole & Carpentieri, 1990](#); [McConaughy & Skiba, 1993](#); [Rapp & Wodarski, 1997](#); [Robinson, Jenson, & Yaffe, 1992](#)).

Access to professionals skilled in diagnosing and continuously monitoring and precisely measuring the severity of depression and anxiety in response to treatment/intervention is almost non-existent for CT juvenile and adult offenders,

A wide range of short, fixed screening and assessment instruments for depression and anxiety such as the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ) have passed into common use in the general population, but cannot be assumed to have the same sensitivity and specificity in the high risk offender populations. (See attached Hewitt Perry Adams)

The attached differentiators provide a detailed summary and comparison of the features of commonly used diagnostic screening tests for depression and dimensional severity measurements for depression and anxiety. (See attached Differentiators) The advantages of computerized adaptive testing (CAT-MH) include:

- Greatly increased sensitivity (fewer missed cases) with similar or even higher specificity (fewer false positives).
- Easily adapt screening and assessment items so they are culturally sensitive and clinically appropriate for disproportionate minority populations.
- Dramatic reduction in patient and clinician burden.
- Anywhere (jails or prisons) anytime (24x7x365) administration (under 2 minutes) automated and continuous scoring of the severity of depression, anxiety and bi-polar disorder over time in response to medication or MATC
- Device independence (smart-phones, tablets, PCs).
- Dramatic increase in precision and information content through the use of large item banks containing hundreds of items as compared to short fixed-length tests.
- Elimination of response-set bias based on repeated administration of the same items over and over.
- Continuous dynamic suicide risk screening with real-time reporting BHDP for corrections officers, parole/probation officer notification.
- Uncertainty estimates for severity scores which allow the determination of the amount of change that is statistically and clinically meaningful as well as confidence level associated with the screening diagnosis.

If you have any questions or would like to see non-commercial demonstrations of any of the components, please let me know.

V/R

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From: e-Dear Colleague  
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 10:22 AM  
To: [E-DEARCOLL\\_ISSUES\\_G-Z\\_0000@ls2.house.gov](mailto:E-DEARCOLL_ISSUES_G-Z_0000@ls2.house.gov)  
Subject: Judiciary: Dear Colleague: A Demonstration of Revolutionary Processes for Predicting and Preventing Violence Due to Mental Illness

A Demonstration of Revolutionary Processes for Predicting and Preventing Violence Due to Mental Illness

From: The Honorable Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Sent By: [Veronica.Eligan@mail.house.gov](mailto:Veronica.Eligan@mail.house.gov)  
Date: 3/22/2013

"R E M I N D E R"

Briefing – Today

3:00 to 4:00 pm

Room 2226 Rayburn HOB

Dear Colleague:

We invite you and your staff to a briefing and demonstration of revolutionary new computer assisted testing and treatment monitoring procedures that have shown a high degree of predictive accuracy and treatment effectiveness for identifying and treating suicidal and violence tendencies in people suffering from depression and other mental illnesses.

The briefing and demonstration will be conducted by David J. Kupfer, M.D., Thomas Detre Professor of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and Robert Gibbons, PhD, Professor of Health Studies, Medicine, and Psychiatry, and Director, Center for Health Statistics, at the University of Chicago. Here is how they describe the briefing and demonstration:

“A live demonstration of anytime, anywhere, under 2 minute 24x7x365 diagnosis and continuous, precise measurement of the severity of depression, anxiety, and hypomania or mania, to help reduce the risk of violence. It is a demonstration of the Computerized Adaptive Test-Mental Health or CAT-MH, which is currently a collection of three adaptive tests for depression, anxiety, and mania, and a diagnostic screening test for major depressive disorder (CAD-MDD) developed as part of a 5-year grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. The CAD-MDD produces a screening diagnosis of depression in under one minute and a corresponding confidence level associated with that diagnosis. By contrast, the three computerized adaptive tests (CAT), the CAT-Depression Inventory or CAT-DI, the CAT-Anxiety or CAT-ANX and the CAT-bipolar disorder or CAT-BP, are validated dimensional measures that produce continuous severity scores in under 2 minutes based on symptomatology experienced in the past two weeks.

The revolutionary paradigm shift between traditional screening and assessment tools and those associated with these tests is that they begin with a large “bank” of items (1008 psychiatric symptom items) and adaptively administer a small and statistically optimal subset of the items (on average 12 items for each of the three CATs and 4 items for the CAD-MDD). Nevertheless, each of the CATs maintains a correlation of close to  $r=0.95$  with the entire bank of items for each test (389 depression items, 431 anxiety items, 88 bipolar items). As such, with only 12 items in 2 minutes anywhere, anytime over the internet, we can extract the information contained in hundreds of items in the item

bank and provide them in real time alerts for suicide and other dangerous behaviors to clinicians, first responders, and family members.”

In the aftermath of the violent tragedies at Newtown, Aurora, Oak Creek, Tucson, Virginia Tech and Columbine, and the suicides and systemic violence that play out in communities across the nation daily, the CAT-MH and the CAD-MDD appear to hold great promise for preventing such tragedies and suffering.

For more information, contact Bobby Vassar at 202-225 6739, or at [bobby.vassar@mail.house.gov](mailto:bobby.vassar@mail.house.gov).

Very Truly Yours,

/s/

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott  
Member of Congress

/s/

Grace F. Napolitano, Member of Congress  
Member of Congress