

Sharpen Adds New Speakers & Dates for its Popular Fireside Chats

Conversations cover topics such as suicide prevention, school behavioral health, and student wellness

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Founder Robyn Husa Farrell's popular Fireside Chats have received such positive feedback and support that they will continue for the foreseeable future. Featuring national experts focused on student and family mental wellness, the fireside chats began during Suicide Prevention Month. Educational leaders and journalists are encouraged to attend live by registering at [sharpenminds.com/chats](#) or view a catalog of previous conversations.



The Sharpen Fireside Chats are a free resource available live via Zoom that provides best practices to support individuals, communities and families. The content will also be available on Facebook Live.

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*Sharpen Founder Robyn
Husa Farrell*

“As the pandemic continues to force schools to postpone or cancel classes across the country, students are feeling more mental and emotional stress than they can handle alone,” said Husa Farrell. “Anxiety affects students at a higher rate than the general population and the continued quarantine guidelines make their lives even tougher. Sharpen wants to facilitate conversations that might provide someone a ray of light during these difficult times.”

Three additional 60-minute fireside chats are scheduled, with more on the horizon:

Alcohol, Substance Use Disorders and Suicide (Oct. 14 @ Noon EST)

Join Medical University of South Carolina's Dr. Therese Killeen, a national expert in the field of substance use disorders and PTSD, who will discuss the models that have shown to be successful regarding substance use disorder and suicide prevention.

Resilience & Suicide Prevention Programs in Schools: Practical Tips and Tricks (Oct. 15 @ Noon EST)

Learn best practices from four different perspectives: Dr. Terry O. Pruitt, Chief Academic Officer for Spartanburg School District Seven; Tye Tindal, III, Clinical Director of Spartanburg District 7 RBHS Program; Colin Bauer, Lead District Social Worker for District Seven; and Ruth Schoonover Coordinator of Parenting and Social Work at Spartanburg School District Three.

A Community approach to improving behavioral health (Oct. 20 @ Noon EST)

Tom Barnet and Heather Witt - Co-Directors at the Spartanburg County Behavioral Health Task Force for the United Way of the Piedmont - will be joined by two founding members -Carey Rothschild and Roger Williams - to provide keys to creating a successful community based approach to health.

Fireside chats are available to watch on replay at sharpenminds.com/chats. The topics include:

School Behavioral Health, Student Wellness, and Suicide Prevention

Growth Mindset: Optimism in the Midst of Pessimism

Mindfulness and suicide prevention in higher education

Looking Beyond Stereotypes: Who is Really at Risk for Suicide

Sharpen collaborates with licensed mental health professionals to provide school leadership programming for mental health and students self-help information, techniques and guidance in a safe environment. Unique to Sharpen, the content is offered in the voices and perspectives of students themselves to increase engagement and decrease stigma.

For more than 10 years, Sharpen has worked with individuals from diverse backgrounds and with national experts and researchers to create a library of more than 450 educational videos and materials that have shown to decrease stigma, improve the connection to treatment and improve mindfulness and healthy coping skills.

To join in on the fireside chat series, log on to <https://www.sharpenminds.com/chats>. Also video captured of the fireside chats can be made available to the media and will be broadcast on Facebook Live. To learn more about Sharpen, please visit www.sharpenminds.com.

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About Sharpen

Sharpen is a cloud service that improves behavioral health outcomes for communities. Our turn-key solution includes inexpensive, branded mobile environments that can be quickly deployed at state, county and municipal levels, evidence-based screening tools and over 450 educational modules created in collaboration with national experts. Our service offers private communication networks and patient self-help techniques in a discreet and safe environment. Unique to Sharpen, the content is offered in the voices and perspectives of the audience being served.

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