# **Outline**

# TRUANTS OR REFUSERS Assess WHY They Aren't in School

The dynamic difference between refusers and truants

Common characteristics of refusers

Completing a functional analysis of refusers

Categorical-dimensional approach

Reinforcement contingencies

Co-morbid DSM-5® disorders

Anxiety disorders

Depressive disorders

Phobias

Conduct disorders

Learning disorders

Factors to consider when assessing for school refusal Standardized assessment measures to employ Critical questions to ask refusers and their parents

#### INDIVIDUALIZED STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS Help Refusers Return to School, and Stay There

Factors that increase the likelihood of success Individual intervention/therapy

Systematic Desensitization

Exposure therapy

Modeling

Cognitive therapy

Educational/supportive therapy

Family intervention/therapy

Parent training

Structured family therapy

Systemic family therapy

Dialectical Behavior Therapy-School Refusal

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#### Pharmacological intervention

Tricyclics

SSRI's

Beta Blockers Benzodiazepines

Interventions for refusers seeking to:

Avoid negative effect

Escape from aversive social and evaluative aspects of school

Get attention

Receive tangible reinforcers

Craft an individualized intervention plan

"School Makes Me Want to Throw Up"

"Everybody There Hates Me"

"Can't I Stay at Home and Have You Teach Me?"

"The School of Hard Knocks"

# GET SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES INVOLVED

Promote a Long-Term, Collaborative Approach

Forced school attendance

Using school escorts

35 concrete tips for parents

Suggestions for teachers and school counselors

## Live Seminar & Webcast Schedule

(Times Listed in Eastern)

7:30 Registration/Morning Coffee & Tea

**8:00** Program begins

**11:50-1:00** Lunch (on your own)

4:00 Program ends

There will be two 15-min breaks (mid-morning & mid-afternoon).

Actual lunch and break start times are at the discretion of the speaker.

A more detailed schedule is available upon request.

# **Objectives**

- Recognize the behavioral and clinical features of school refusers to better inform clinical decision making.
- Analyze the functional purpose of school refusal to determine appropriate treatment strategies.
- Identify co-morbid psychological disorders associated with school refusal to improve treatment outcomes.
- Evaluate individual, family, behavioral, and pharmacological approaches to the treatment of school refusers.
- Design strategic school refusal plans that target the underlying motivation and reinforcement systems.
- Explain to families and school personnel how to work together effectively to remedy school refusal.

"Dr. Haarman was extremely engaging all day long and very informative. Typically, after the lunch break it is hard for me to stay focused. I found myself still engaged on the last slide of the presentation!"

"I really enjoyed the presenter and how he was able to bring in his life's experience via his clinical settings into our real world of today, classroom management."

"Dr. George Haarman, was a FANTASTIC and ENGAGING speaker. I would go to any of his other presentations!!"

**Target Audience:** Counselors • Social Workers • Marriage and Family Therapists • School Counselors • School Psychologists School Social Workers • School Administrators • Teachers & Paraprofessionals • Occupational Therapists & Occupational Therapy Assistants • Speech-Language Pathologists • Case Managers • Nurses • Other Helping Professionals Who Work With Students





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# School Refusal Assessment & Intervention



Charlotte, NC Monday, December 9, 2019

Raleigh, NC Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Live Video Webcast

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

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# School Refusal Assessment & Intervention

Help Refusers Overcome Serious Emotional Barriers to School Attendance and Success

- Dig deep into the motivation behind this behavior - and how it's reinforced
- Uncover co-morbid psychological disorders that may be exacerbating the problem
- Gain concrete strategies for getting school personnel and parents involved
- Leave ready to write and implement strategic, individualized intervention plans



# **Charlotte, NC**

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# School Refusal Assessment & Intervention

#### Help Refusers Overcome Serious Emotional Barriers to School Attendance and Success

To those on the outside, school refusal can seem trivial and even comedic, conjuring up images of the rebellious child who simply doesn't like school and doesn't want to go. As a clinician on the front lines with families and school personnel, you know it to be a much more serious and destructive force that has far-reaching consequences. You've probably felt just as frustrated as those you are trying to help by the difficulties associated with proper diagnosis, determining the reasons for behavioral manifestations such as temper tantrums and nightmares, and dealing with the acrimony that can arise between families and school systems.

In this unique slant on an often-misunderstood phenomenon, Dr. George Haarman will show you how to simultaneously meet attendance expectations set by the schools while also digging deeper to uncover and treat underlying problems. You will be able to more quickly differentiate school refusal from common phobic reactions by recognizing and addressing the presence of anxiety, depressive, and other co-morbid disorders. Armed with a better understanding of motivation and reinforcement systems, you can then offer strategic, individualized intervention plans that are more effective.

Get families and school personnel all working together toward the same goal—returning refusers to school and toward academic success.

# Speaker

GEORGE B. HAARMAN, PsyD, LMFT, is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with over 40 years of experience. A member of the American Psychological Association and Kentucky Psychological Association, Dr. Haarman is in private practice in Louisville, Kentucky and serves as a consultant to several school systems regarding the assessment of children. For 24 years, Dr. Haarman worked in the Department of Human Services in Louisville, serving as the deputy director for the last 12 years of his tenure there. His prior experience with DHS included working with youth detention centers, juvenile group homes, child protective services, and juvenile probation. Dr. Haarman received his doctorate in clinical psychology from Spalding University and has been an instructor at Jefferson Community College, Bellarmine University, and Spalding University. He has presented seminars regionally and nationally on psychopathology, depression, and emotional disorders in children and adolescents. He is also the author of three books: School Refusal: Children Who Can't or Won't Go to School, Mastering DSM-5®, and Clinical Supervision: Legal, Ethical, and Risk Management Issues.

Speaker Disclosure

Financial: George Haarman is in private practice. He receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc.

Non-financial: George Haarman is a member of the American Psychological Association; and the Kentucky Psychological Association

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**Beyond Behaviors:** Using Brain Science and Compassion to Understand and Solve Children's Behavioral Challenges

By Mona M. Delahooke, PhD

In Beyond Behaviors, internationally known pediatric psychologist, Dr. Mona Delahooke describes behaviors as the tip of the iceberg, important signals that we should address by seeking to understand a child's individual differences in the context of relational safety. Featuring impactful worksheets and charts, this accessible book offers professionals, educators and parents tools and techniques to reduce behavioral challenges and promote psychological resilience and satisfying, secure



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