**CASE STUDY SCENARIOS – THREAT ASSESSMENT**

**Directions: Using the TAIP form, assess the student’s level of risk by completing Sections 1-5.**

* **State your reason for the assessment**
* **Section 1- choose those you would assemble for the threat assessment team.**
* **Section 2 - describe the incident of concern and details of the threat/incident.**
* **Section 3 - check the sources of information you would utilize if this was a case at your school.**
* **Section 4 - check the threatening, behavioral, and protective risk factors that are present**
* **Section 5 - determine the level of potential risk/threat**

**Elementary School: Sammy**

Sammy is a 3rd grade boy who told another student, Justin, during recess that he was “gonna kill” Justin. When questioned further, Sammy first said he wanted to punch Justin in the stomach so hard it would make him die. Sammy was very upset and cried during most of the interview. He said that he felt bad about what was said to Justin but he was tired of being teased by Justin and his friends everyday at recess. Staff confirmed that Justin and some other boys had been bulling Sammy. Sammy had no prior behavior or emotional concerns at school, denied that he had thoughts of wanting to hurt others before, and reported that things are good at home but now he was going to be in big trouble as mom and dad might hit him. Sammy’s parents reported that he has never been violent before, but he has a hard time making friends since transferring to the school in 1st grade and they have seen him more sad lately. He no longer wants to play soccer and they have a harder time getting him to want to come to school. The parents seemed to be quite concerned about how upset Sammy was feeling in regards to this incident and wanted to know what they could do to help. However, they also make it clear that Justin needs to be dealt with also as the bullying has to stop. Sammy was scared to come and tell teachers as he feels they always believe Justin and then Justin picks on him more.

**Middle School: Alicia**

Alicia got into an argument with another student named Heather. Alicia told Heather later that day she would but her up if she ever bothered her again. Upon further investigation, the school found that Alicia did not possess any knives in her backpack or at home, but she could easily get one from a friend or family member. Alicia had two older brothers who were gang involved and one uncle who was murdered in a bar fight. Alicia said she easily gets angry and she just snapped when she made the threat to Heather. Alicia added that she was mad at the time, but now she was over it and the adults “just needed to stay out of her business.” Heather confirmed that she barely knew Alicia, and the argument was about Alicia cutting in front of her while lining up for lunch. Earlier in the year, Alicia’s teachers had expressed some concerns to the Dean of Students about Alicia’s numerous displays of oppositional defiance in class and anger outbursts. The school was in the process of getting permission signed for a special education assessment due to her failing grades and disruptive behaviors but the parents have not responded to this request.

**High School: Tom**

It was revealed, based on a tip from other students, that Tom had an elaborate plan to blow up the school during lunch period on Friday of that same week. A search of his locker revealed he has numerous pieces of information from websites about making bombs, a calendar with a red date circled around Friday and the word “lunch”, and a list of popular students. In English class he recently wrote a composition piece on demolition experts who blow up public buildings. When questioned about these materials, Tom laughed and said, “I was only joking, I wouldn’t really do anything like that.” He then said, “In today’s world anything is possible…maybe not today, but you never know about tomorrow.” When asked why he circled Friday lunch, he said that is when “all the jocks and cheers like to march around their greatness.” His parents work long hours and leave Tom at home most afternoons. They reported Tom had been hospitalized in middle school after a neighbor witnessed him torturing a cat and blowing up model buildings with cherry bombs. Tom has 1-2 close friends at school but rarely hangs out with a group. Academically he has a 3.5 GPA. With the parents’ permission, the police searched his home and found bomb making materials under his bed but no specific information on blowing up the school was found at his home.