



**John Sommers-Flanagan** is a clinical psychologist and Professor of Counselor Education at the University of Montana. He is author or coauthor of over 60 professional publications and eight books. His books, co-written with his wife Rita, include *Tough Kids, Cool Counseling* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2007), *How to Listen so Parents will Talk and Talk so Parents will Listen* (2011), *Clinical Interviewing* (6<sup>th</sup> ed., 2017), and *Counseling and Psychotherapy Theories in Context and Practice* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed., 2018). Dr. Sommers-Flanagan has been publishing articles, book chapters, and videos on suicide since 1995 and is a sought out keynote speaker and professional workshop trainer in the areas of (a) counseling youth, (b) working with parents, and (c) suicide assessment/intervention. He is also co-host of the *Practically Perfect Parenting Podcast*. In his wild and precious spare time, John loves to run (slowly), dance (poorly), laugh (loudly) and produce home-made family music videos.

### **Keynote: A Strengths-Based Approach to Suicide Assessment and Intervention**

Working with suicidal patients is a highly stressful clinical task. As soon as your patient mentions suicide, a cascade of negative personal and professional thoughts and emotions often follow. In this keynote speech, a strength-based approach to suicide assessment and intervention is described, along with positive case examples. Knowing how to implement a strength-based suicide assessment approach can facilitate professional competence and calm clinician anxiety.