



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

N.C. Center for Safer Schools

Pat McCrory, Governor

Frank L. Perry, Secretary

Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools Hammond Business Place, Raleigh Dec. 11, 2014

Members

Chip Hughes
Joe Pass
Greta Metcalf
Jim MacCallum
Ben Matthews
Tom Kilby
Ty Davis
Wendy Jordan
Evonne Moore
Donna White
Dale Cole
Karin Evanoff
Mary Jane Ferguson
Rob Kindsvatter
Greg Baker (for Frank Perry)

Guests

Pam Boudah
Barbara Leland
Dennis Quick
Patrick Merrill
Donna Dougherty
Tim Hinnant
Doug Coley
Jeff White
Stephanie Daniel
Chris Minard
Luther Snyder
Gary Bell
Freddy Johnson
Rachel Johnson

Dawn Johnson
Mark Botts
Ben Baughman
Martin Pharr
Kristen Laster
David Huffman
Megan Howell
William Lassiter

Staff

Kym Martin
Mike Anderson
Lisa Partin
Ricky Parks
Diana Kees
Susie Reeves

- Chairman Chip Hughes called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m., and made a motion that the minutes from the last meeting be accepted. The motion, approved by Ben Matthews and seconded by Jim MacCallum, passed. Chairman Hughes recognized the following guests: Commissioner Baker, Sheriff Huffman, Governor's Crime Commission Deputy Director Tim Hinnant, Patrick Merrill, Capt. Gary Bell, Capt. Johnson, Trooper Doug Coley, Executive Director Luther Snyder and Deputy Commissioner Billy Lassiter.

Chairman Hughes introduced Commissioner Baker to provide Secretary Perry's report. Commissioner Baker reported that Secretary Perry had decided to move the Center for Safer Schools to DPS' Law Enforcement Division to provide the Center better access to resources and to the Emergency Management grant-writing staff. Commissioner Baker thanked the Task Force members for their service and asked them to share with him ideas or experiences that can be put into operation.

Chairman Hughes reported that the Executive Committee met yesterday and emphasized that with the amount of work remaining to be done by each of the subcommittees, chairmen need to ensure that all members are contributing their all.

- Executive Directors Report**

Director Martin thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a great holiday season. She reported that she was pleased that the Center is moving to the Law Enforcement section, and that the Center will maintain a close relationship with Juvenile Justice. The Task Force meetings will continue to be held at the Hammond Road location.

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Director Martin announced that a Safer Schools and Communities Forum will be held in Kinston and that there is a request for one to be held in Sanford. Additionally, a School Violence Prevention and Response Symposium is scheduled for Wilmington on Jan. 23.

- **Presentation**

Luther Snyder, ABC Commission; Executive Director of the Initiative to Reduce Underage Drinking

Mr. Snyder discussed how the Initiative to Reduce Underage Drinking began in January 2013, under the leadership of Gov. Pat McCrory and ABC Chairman Jim Gardner. After market research surveys conducted with North Carolina parents and children indicated that the average age children begin alcohol experimentation is 13.9, and that kids looked more to parents, rather than teachers, for conversation on this issue, the decision was made to launch a statewide awareness initiative. Last week, Talk It Out NC was launched, with an online web portal, television/radio commercials and billboards.

Other projects the Commission is working on include a project in conjunction with DMV dealing with the prevention of fake ids; a Governor's Crime Commission grant to work with district attorneys in four counties on a pilot diversion program; and in conjunction with Executive Order 52, acting as the administrator of \$120,000 federal grant to work with six pilot college campuses for alcohol wellness and underage drinking prevention.

- **Update on Center Projects**

Director Martin reported that the Center has been working on the SRO census and has identified a school safety contact person in all 115 LEAs. The Center learned that 62 percent of LEAs have a shared SRO, mostly in elementary schools. The Center also asked about anonymous reporting mechanisms used and learned that forty percent have some type of system, including a drop box, telephone message system, or an email or web-based system to report anonymously. These systems are not always effective so the anonymous reporting app for students will be a better tool.

The Center is working on Identifying best and most promising programs across the state that can be listed on the website in areas of mental health, school climate and emergency preparedness and physical security. Please complete the form provided if you have programs you would like included in the list.

School Safety Specialist Mike Anderson reported that the Critical Incident and Response Training nearly finished, with 80 counties complete. Training will be held on Dec. 16 in Kannapolis, Dec. 19 in Williamston and Jan. 21 in Raleigh to complete the state. The CI training has become a national model with several states requesting the curriculum. The collaboration with partnering agencies has enabled the success of the training. The Center seeks next to get this training into the private and charter school sector.

- **Steering Committee Reports**

Mental Health and Students with Special Needs

Chairman Greta Metcalf reported that the committee will be working on a project through a connection with Dr. Stephanie Daniels and the UNC Greensboro-Center for Youth and Family Community Partnership to develop training webinars for Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health services to engage schools. The committee hopes by next year to equip schools with a quality improvement goal for their safe school plan so schools can better meet their needs and move toward integrated care.

- **Presentation**

Early Intervention Program-Macon County

Rhonda Cox, Senior Director for Care Coordination at Smoky Mountain Center/LME/MCO and Dianne Whitman, chief court counselor for the 30th District, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, provided a presentation on how early intervention can combat truancy and the provision of services to the parents and child such as parenting classes, substance abuse treatment or mental health needs. The 30th District formed this program in an effort to prevent juvenile court involvement due to youths accumulating 10 unexcused absences. This program has strong system collaboration with Social Services, mental health, nurses, school social workers, court counselors, SROs and Smokey Mountain Center LME/MCO.

The program focuses on preventing truancy with elementary age as opposed to high school- age students, because by then students are dropping out of school. The agency collaboration works toward finding a good balance of accountability with the family.

- **Partnering Agency Updates**

Department of Health and Human Services

Rachel Johnson reported that as of December more than 200 people had been trained in Mental Health First Aid. She also said that a speaker from the National Council reported that North Carolina has a great structure and is above average in participant satisfaction with the training scoring 4.7 out of 5.

- Next year four more train-the-trainer events will be conducted consisting of two adult and two youth trainings. DHHS will look at the faith-based community as well to educate them on mental health issues.
- A symposium will be held in May at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh where all the Mental Health First Aid trainers will come together and talk about what is important to them and what is working and not working.
- In September DHHS was awarded the implementation piece of the System of Care Planning Grant, which will run from September 2015 through September 2018 and targets youth up to age 21 with mental health needs.

Department of Justice

Ben Baughman with the N.C. Justice Academy reported that 401 stakeholders were trained as a result of the symposiums on school safety training sponsored by DPS, DOJ and DHHS. At this point, the following courses for the coming year are scheduled: 10 courses for SROs, seven courses for tactical response to active threats, and 10 courses for hostage negotiating. Multiple SRO courses will be added in July through August when school is not in session.

Department of Public Safety

Captain Johnson with the State Highway Patrol reported that the troopers currently are observing schools and bringing back suggestions on suggested school training and safety upgrades to the steering committee. The troopers are encouraged to stop and visit schools and interact with the students, especially in the rural areas. Since the program started in 2013, 16,585 visits have been made to schools across the state. This year there have been 6,879 visits.

Other ongoing activities:

- School bus ride-alongs, to allow interaction with the students
- All patrolman have viewed the training for lockdown procedures
- Patrol serves as administrator for GangNET program/Train-a-Trooper in every county and this was completed in September
- Justice and Standards requires annual in-service training; in 2015 plans for a refresher course in active shooter training and response

- **Steering Committee Reports**

School Climate and Discipline Committee (also update from Department of Public Instruction)

Chairman Dr. Ben Matthews reported that the committee continues to work on the following main topics:

- Cyberbullying
- School climate
- Alternatives to suspension

Dr. Matthews, as representative of the **Department of Public Instruction**, reported DPI's completion of an online module of training for SROs, with a training module for suicide prevention and suicide response for public schools to be available soon. In addition, the Attorney General's Office has asked the Department to complete a drug and alcohol abuse online training module.

Physical Security and Emergency Preparedness Committee

Mike Anderson reported for Sheriff Robert Holland on the following committee projects:

- Stakeholders Symposium on School Violence Prevention and Response was held in Macon county
- CI training is ongoing
- The 911 telecommunicators are often left out of trainings. The committee is working on a curriculum to establish an active shooter response system for tele-communicators
- Looking at how to handle bomb threats in schools
- School bus driver training in the event of an active shooter
- International threats-what happens if several schools in a district are hit at one time
- A response plan is needed for community colleges

- **Presentation**

Full-Scale Active Shooter, School Crisis Response, Evacuation and Reunification Drill

Donna Dougherty, Director of Disciplinary Review and School Safety for Rocky Mount/Nash County Schools, outlined the planning, process, scenario, process and follow-up involved with the active shooter/evacuation/reunification drill that occurred last August at a Nash County/Rocky Mount school.

Two hundred and fifty employees participated in the drill, including principals and assistant principals, SROs, school central office staff, school site administrators, Safer Schools' staff and partnering agencies. The drill included the active shooter scenario and then the evacuation piece. Following the drill, an online survey was developed for feedback, and a reunification video was produced to show parents what they would have to do in the event this crisis actually happens. The video can be viewed on the Nash/Rocky Mount Public School home page. Ms. Dougherty will provide her PowerPoint presentation upon request.

- **Special Topic**

How Schools Handle Students with Behavior Issues

Barbara Leland from Guilford County and Karin Evanoff from Wake County reported on several serious violent incidents that occurred in schools in their counties. Ms. Leland is frequently contacted regarding these kinds of incidents and her assistance is requested because the teachers are frightened and frustrated that their concerns are not supported or addressed. Dr. Matthews commented there is a statutory response to this and it impacts local school boards, and suggested a sub-committee be formed to address this issue. Dr. Matthews, Tom Kilby and J.R. Gorham will develop a plan and submit it to Secretary Perry.

- **New Business**

Tentative dates of the upcoming quarterly meetings:

- March 25, 26 *changed to March 17, 18
- June 24, 25
- Sept. 23, 24
- Dec. 9, 10

Mary Jane Ferguson made a motion to accept the tentative meeting dates, with a second by Rob Kindsvatter.

Mary Jane Ferguson moved to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Jim MacCallum. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.