



**Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools
Hammond Business Place, Raleigh
June 19, 2014**

Members

Robert Holland
Greta Metcalf
Buddy Collins
Jim MacCallum
Tom Kilby
Wendy Jordan
Evonne Moore
Rob Kindsvatter
Luke Stancil
Karin Evanoff
Donna White
Joe Pass

Guests

Mark Botts
David Huffman
Tony Carver
Donna Dougherty
Stephanie Daniel
Jeff Rink
Tony Lee
Jeff White
Barbara Leland
Ann Dupre Rogers
Mark Strickland
Ben Baughman
Doug Coley
Jon Powell
Frank Ard
Rachel Johnson
Caitlin Brooks
Joia Caron

Marius Pettiford
Chris Minard
Billy Clayton
Jan Pueschel
John Tucker
Susan Robinson
Shawn Harrington

Staff

Kym Martin
Ricky Parks
Susie Reeves
Dick Hayes
Diana Kees
Jeff Goldsmith
J.R. Gorham
William Lassiter
Mike Anderson

- Vice Chair Jim MacCallum called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He recognized the following guests: Sheriff David Huffman, Executive Director of the Governors Crime Commission, and Shawn Harrington, volunteer student with Rep. Langdon's office.
- **Legislative Update**
Task Force member Luke Stancil discussed the work performed by himself and the School Climate Committee toward making a change to G.S. 115C-407.16(d) on School Bullying Policies. The change would require school principals to provide the LEA Bullying/Cyber bullying policy to staff, students and parents. The policies will also be placed in school handbooks. A handout was provided.

Mr. Stancil expressed appreciation to Center for Safer Schools Executive Director Kym Martin and Dr. Ben Matthews for helping make this effort possible. He also thanked Reps. Justin Burr, James Langdon and John Bell, along with Sens. Brent Jackson, Buck Newton and Ron Rabin for their support.

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- William Lassiter gave an update on HB 1062: Schematic Diagrams and Emergency Access to Schools and provided a copy of the bill. This bill has passed the House Committee on Education and is now in the Senate in the Secondary Education Committee. The bill, which will require schools to provide the schematic drawings and crisis plans to N.C. Emergency Management, is expected to pass. Law enforcement will be able to access this information from a web-based school emergency plan tool, which will be funded through \$1.2 million in funding secured by DPS through Homeland Security. This bill will require that law enforcement have access to key storage devices such as a KNOX box, instead of having to collect and physically maintain a key from every school.
- Vice Chair MacCallum made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting. The motion was seconded by Robert Holland, and the motion passed.
- **Executive Director's Report**
Director Martin and staff have been working on the 2014 Annual Report to the Governor. The staff attended a retreat to discuss the report, and the progress that has been toward fulfilling the 78 recommendations included in the 2013 Report to the Governor. Additional ongoing projects the Center is currently working on include:
 1. The web-based emergency plan is being piloted in six Forsyth County schools. Implementation in all schools should begin in September.
 2. The smartphone app bids have been received and three companies submitted a bid. A final selection is expected to be made in July.
 3. A Bullying Prevention Train-the-Presenter event was held in May. Billy Lassiter trained 22 people to become presenters of this anti-bullying awareness presentation.
 4. The staff will be working with the Alcohol and Beverage Control Commission's Underage Drinking Initiative on youth focus groups and potentially a statewide youth conference.
- **School Resource Officer Census/Survey Update**
Dick Hayes reported upon the completion of an SRO Census required by the 2013 Report to the Governor. The Census collected communication information on 750 SROs; a census collected last year by the Governor's Crime Commission resulted in a list of 850 SROs. The two databases were concatenated and produced 1,000 names to survey next year during the school year.

About 900 surveys reached the SROs and the results of the survey show the average age is 42; 85 percent are male; 85 percent are white, 10 percent are black and four percent are Hispanic. The SROs have an average 15 years of law enforcement experience and have spent five years as an SRO. Seventy seven percent have completed SRO basic training from the N.C. Justice Academy. A committee is being formed with representation from the Department of Public Safety, Department of Justice, Department of Public Instruction and Department of Health and Human Services to discuss issues and better understand the needs of SROs. This committee will meet quarterly.

- **Critical Incident Response Training Update**
Mike Anderson reported that in April he completed three train-the-trainer sessions for the

LEAs, training approximately 200 on the new critical incident procedures. Training has been completed in 49 counties so far. The next round of trainings scheduled are Aug. 4 in Kinston, Aug. 5 in Winston Salem, Aug. 6 in Morganton and Aug. 7 in Elizabeth City. This past Monday new charter schools faculty and staff were trained at the DPI complex downtown. Training will be presented on Oct. 5-7 at the School Psychologist Conference in Asheville, and the School Social Workers conference in Cary on Nov. 12-14. Other upcoming projects include the school bus incident curriculum, and the creation of critical response plans and actions at schools with students with special needs through grant funding secured by the Center.

Director Martin announced the next Task Force meeting will be Sept. 17-18.

- **Executive Committee Report**

Vice Chair MacCallum recognized the Center for its accomplishments with a small number of staff. He discussed the Executive Committee meeting, where the group participated in some long-range planning endeavors. Steve Hairston and Mark Tyler with DPS facilitated the meeting, along with the leadership of J.R. Gorham, in which the group looked at the Department of Public Safety goals and vision and tried to place the Center and task force in the larger realm of these visions. The committee finalized the following mission/vision statements for the Center for Safer Schools.

Vision Statement

“All schools in the state are safe, secure and offer an environment conducive to learning.”

Mission Statement

“Serves as a customer-focused information center for research, training and technical assistance related to school safety, crisis prevention and response to work effectively and efficiently with federal, state, local and community-based organizations with the ultimate goal of safer schools in North Carolina.”

Vice Chair MacCallum reported that the Executive Committee also summarized numerous accomplishments and reviewed a list of tasks to focus on in the future.

- **Special Presentation: Restorative Justice Project**

Jon Powell serves as the Director of the Juvenile Justice Project, a clinical program of the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law. This project started as a resource for the juvenile justice system. Mr. Powell discussed the two main restorative practices used with juveniles in the clinic: restorative circles and victim offender dialogue model. Mr. Powell facilitated the Task Force members participating in a circle, to help them understand how it works in practice. Mr. Powell also played a video that he had edited from a production by the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke. The video showed a situation at Broughton High School in Raleigh where restorative justice practices were successfully used.

The Task Force next heard from Frank Ard, a social worker/treatment coordinator with Chatham Youth Development Center, who studied restorative justice in graduate school. Mr.

Ard has developed a standard operating procedure for Chatham Youth Development Center for how counselors there respond to wrongdoing; it involves victim-offender mediation, impromptu circles and family-style conferences, including stake holders. The purpose of these practices is to help juveniles develop a sense of accountability and learn how their negative behavior impacts others.

Marius Pettiford with Wake County Schools discussed how the school system uses restorative practices. Currently 485 students have been involved with the program after having gone through mediation. He also discussed the need for mediation to reintegrate students back into school following suspension or incarceration.

- **Steering Committee Updates**

- *Physical Security and Emergency Preparedness*

- Committee Chairman Sheriff Robert Holland reported that the committee is working on:

- Collecting district level school plans and interagency agreements related to school safety.
 - Getting parents involved in school safety issues.
 - Ensuring parents and students have a way of anonymously reporting school safety concerns.
 - Ensuring that SROs are part of school safety planning and implementation from the start of the school year.

- *School Climate*

- Committee member Luke Stancil reported on the changes to the Bullying Statutes that the committee had championed in the first part of the meeting. He reported on behalf of Ben Matthews that the committee planned to focus next on alternatives to school suspension and that Director Martin and Deputy Commissioner Lassiter were working to secure funding for the anonymous tip line.

- *Mental Health and Students with Special Needs*

- Committee Chairman Greta Metcalf reported that a three-part training symposium is being organized, aimed at de-stigmatizing mental health issues and identifying red flags. She also reported that by the end of June, 67 people will be trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid.

- **Partnering Agencies Updates**

- *Department of Justice*

- Mark Strickland reported that a Governor's Crime Commission grant has been secured to present a Teen Dating Violence workshop. This will be a one day workshop broken into eight sessions with the ability to train 200 people.

- *Department of Public Instruction*

- Chris Minard (for Dr. Matthews) reported that \$1 million has been spent to install panic alarm buttons at 1,000 schools and that \$1 million is left to put into the remaining schools. The funds must be spent by June 2015. The \$7 million recurring appropriations for SROs has

been spent and will be available for the current awardees in fiscal year 2014-2015. The grants netted 198 additional SROs for North Carolina schools.

The N.C. Department of Public Instruction, in partnership with the Governor's Center for Safer Schools, Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, Research Triangle Institute at Research Triangle Park, and NAMI NC are preparing a grant proposal to the National Institute of Justice: "Developing Knowledge about What Works to Make Schools Safe." The objective for the grant is to empirically demonstrate the importance of child-centered support teams at the middle school level, to improve safety indicators and successfully effect 9th grade transition and retention levels.

A new online SRO professional development module available at DPI: "Understanding the Role of the School Resource Officer in our Classrooms."

Department of Health and Human Services

Rob Kindsvatter reported that the number one focus at DHHS is "Support Intervention Early;" there are 250,000 kids in child care, with eighty thousand subsidized.

Rachel Johnson reported that since September 2013 2,000 people have been trained as trainers in Mental Health First Aid, with 43 certified instructors.

- **New Business**

Director Martin announced the next task force meeting will be held Sept. 17-18.

- Sherriff Holland moved to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Vice Chair MacCallum. The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.