



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
N.C. History Center
New Bern
March 27, 2014**

Members

Robert Holland
Greta Metcalf
Tyree Davis
Jan Smoot
Tom Kilby
Ben Matthews
Mary Jane Ferguson
Evonne Moore
Wendy Jordan
Karin Evanoff
Luke Stancil
Donna White
Jim MacCallum
Joe Pass
Chip Hughes
Ellis Boyle (rep.)

Guests

Donna Dougherty
Tony Carver
Patrick Fiel
Floyd Yoder
Chris Davis
Suzanne Creech
Andrew Larowe
Jeff Rink
Clay Ruff
Mary Mallard
Martin Pharr
Kevin Daniels
Scott Grantham
Justice Mark Martin
Chief Tony Lee
Norman & Linda Sanderson

Rep. Michael Speciale
Delores Rhodes
Greg Muse
Sonya Brown
Heather Hughes
Rep. Marvin Lucas
Jesse Riggs
Dave Richard
Matt Knight
David Hale
Michael Kudrick

Staff

Mike Anderson
Lisa Partin
Ricky Parks
Susie Reeves
Dick Hayes
Diana Kees
Pam Walker
Jeff Goldsmith
J.R. Gorham
Billy Lassiter

- Chairman Chip Hughes called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m. He recognized the following guests: Supreme Court Associate Justice Mark Martin, Clay Ruff with the ABC Commission, Sheriff David Huffman with the Governor's Crime Commission, Department of Public Safety Deputy Secretary Ellis Boyle, Sen. Norman Sanderson, Rep. Mike Speciale, Clerk of Court Terry Sharpe, David Hale-Board of Election. The Chairman expressed appreciation to the N.C. History Center and the DoubleTree for the accommodations. Chairman Hughes also thanked the staff with the Center for Safer Schools for their work in

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setting up the meeting. The Chairman also recognized Luke Stancil, a Task Force Member, for his valuable perspective as a high school student.

- Chairman Hughes made a motion to accept the minutes from the December meeting. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Holland. The motion was passed unanimously by the Task Force.
- Department of Public Safety Deputy Secretary Ellis Boyle made brief remarks related to ongoing projects of the Center for Safer Schools. He indicated the critical incident response video coming out next week will be beneficial in helping to prepare schools to face a critical incident. Mr. Boyle also mentioned Emergency Management's Web-based School Emergency Plan project, and collaboration between DPS and the Justice Academy to update the SRO training curriculum. Mr. Boyle also spoke about the State Highway Patrol's more than 2,000 school safety stops, where troopers drive around schools and speak to teachers to make sure everything is good on the ground and show a law enforcement presence.
- Kevin Daniels, the Community Liaison in the Office of the Governor, thanked the Task Force, committee members and Center for Safer Schools staff on behalf of Gov. McCrory for the collaborative work taking place to ensure that school children and staff are safe.
- Chairman Hughes called on the Hon. Mark Martin to administer the oath of office to two members: Jan Smoot and Donna White.
- **Presentation: Mental Health First Aid**
Dave Richard, Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities at the Department of Health and Human Services, delivered a presentation on Youth Mental Health First Aid, a new training program being offered through DHHS. Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based practice based in the public education program that helps the public respond to the needs of mental health. Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed for youth ages 12-18 experiencing a mental health challenge. It teaches the identification of unique risk factors and warning signs, such as anxiety, depression, psychosis, ADHD, behavioral disorders and substance abuse disorders. It teaches early intervention and how to use role-playing simulations. In February, 32 new instructors were certified on how to deliver mental health first aid; six to 10 additional trainings will occur across the state next year.
- **Chairman's Report**
Chairman Hughes' updated those present that he and other task force members have conducted many school visits in eastern North Carolina, along with troopers, ALE agents and other members of law enforcement. Chairman Hughes said he's seen some issues and deficiencies in some schools during these visits (including inadequate doors/locks, lack of panic alarms and no school resource officers), and that a report compiling these, including recommendations and solutions, will be presented to Gov. McCrory in the future.

Chairman Hughes asked Sen. Sanderson and Rep. Speciale to speak briefly. Sen. Sanderson said that he believes prevention is one of the best things we can do to keep our kids safe, while Rep. Speciale discussed the safety perspective he sees while visiting schools.

- **Partnering Agency Updates**

Department of Health and Human Services

Dave Richard highlighted system of care grants, which are federal grants that allow them to be able to work across the components, growing public awareness and greater involvement in people with mental health needs and their advocates. He also discussed the state's first Crisis Solutions Coalition meetings, put together to solve the issue of where to take people undergoing a mental health crisis other than the hospital emergency room.

N.C. Justice Academy

Mike Kudrick discussed the training that the Justice Academy will partner with the Center for Safer Schools to conduct. Mr. Kudrick said the training will consist of an eight-hour day seminar broken into four two-hour blocks, with training on active shooters; recognizing the mental health warning signs in students; scene management and combat casualty; and bullying. The training will occur on five different days, in five different places.

Department of Public Instruction

Dr. Ben Matthews discussed the following items:

- The Department of Public Instruction recently collaborated with the Center for Safer Schools to ask school superintendents for assistance to assess and develop a database of school resource officers and their contact information. Once the database is developed, additional surveys will gather their experience, level of training and training needs.
- The General Assembly allotted \$7 million to allow for additional SROs and \$6,929,000 has been distributed to provide 194.75 additional positions. An online training module is underway for SROs that should be ready by April 16. Last year, training modules were put online to train (K-12) teachers on how to identify children who need additional mental health assistance; to date, 10,000 teachers have taken that training.
- The General Assembly allocated \$2 million to install panic alarms in schools. So far 1,140 schools have taken advantage of this money. The deadline for the next allotment is next week and more than \$43,000 in requests have been received.

- **Executive Director's Report**

Center for Safer Schools Executive Director Kym Martin discussed the importance of holding at least two task force meetings outside of Raleigh, in order to involve local communities.

Director Martin indicated that responses from school LEAs in regard to information about school resource officers had been received from 20 percent to this point.

- Director Martin provided an update on ongoing Center projects, including:
 - Juvenile Community Programs Director Billy Lassiter and Director Martin have delivered presentations about safer schools and school violence at the Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services; the Emergency Management Division and the State Board of Education. Additionally, Center staff members have been meeting with the justice academy to collaborate and update the SRO curriculum.
 - Along with the DPI regional trainers, the Center will present the critical incident response training to school faculty and staff on April 7, 9 and 10.
 - The smartphone app should soon go out to bid, in hopes it will be ready for use at the start of the next school year.

Director Martin introduced the two new Task Force members for brief introductions and remarks.

- **Steering Committee Updates**

- *Mental Health and Students with Special Needs*

- Chairman Greta Metcalf shared the following committee update:

- The committee is working on ways to help schools implement mental health first aid training that make it easier for school staff to attend. One way to make it easier for school staff to attend would be to break it up into two days of four hours each.
 - The committee is researching effective ways to implement Youth Crisis Intervention training. Additionally, the committee is looking at the use of an evidence-based threat assessment that was created by UVA and adapted from the Secret Service.
 - The committee is investigating ways to equip preschool teachers and parents with the skills to identify and prevent challenging behaviors. They hope to add some behavioral health questions to the kindergarten health assessment.
 - Other items the committee is researching include ways to more closely connect pediatricians and family doctors with the providers and schools; the need to include special needs youths and those with disabilities into emergency preparedness strategies; and the necessity to ensure that during and after the screening and assessment of youth that parents are made aware in a clear fashion of next steps for further assistance.

School Climate and Discipline

Chairman Dr. Ben Matthews shared that the committee is focusing on the following four areas:

- 1) Technical Assistance for fostering a positive school climate
- 2) Anonymous reporting system
- 3) Bullying curtailment
- 4) Evidence-based solutions that will support bullying curtailment and alternatives to suspension

Other items that Dr. Matthews said the committee is researching are: additional funding sources to fund SROs beyond the current two year grant; the potential for producing anti-bullying PSAs involving principals and SROs from various regions. Focus groups to encourage the public to share ideas on ways to curtail bullying are also being considered.

- **New Business**

The next two meetings for the Task Force are tentatively scheduled for June 18-19 in Wake County and Sept. 17-18 in the Asheville area.

- **Closed session**

Vice Chair Jim MacCallum made a motion that the Task Force go into closed executive session per GS 143-318.11. The motion was seconded by Ben Matthews. No action was taken in the closed session.

- Chairman Chip Hughes moved to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Ben Matthews. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.