

**Vermont School Crisis Planning Team
Department of Public Safety – State Emergency Operations Center
Waterbury, VT**

October Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Stephen Earley, Chair VSCPT
Barbara Bloom, School Counselor Association
Bob Costantino, Agency of Human Services
Dan Batsie, Vermont Department of Health EMS
David Manning, Vermont Principals Association
Mark Moody, Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust
Mary Ellen Mendl, Vermont 211
Pat McManamon, Department of Motor Vehicles
Rob Evans, Agency of Education

Tony Facos, VT Chiefs of Police
David Manning, Vt Principals Association
Leo Nadeau, Public Representative
Tim Clouatre, Vermont State Police
Hugh O'Donnell, VSP Officer
William Brown, Division of Fire Safety
Winton Goodrich, VT Superintendent Association
Deanna Ryerson, Howard Center, DMH
Kari Hancock, EMS for Children Coordinator
Emily Simmons, VT School Boards Association

On the phone:

Sharonlee Trefry, Vermont Department of Health – School Nurses

Introductions, acceptance of September 12, 2017 meeting minutes

Meeting was called to order by Rob Evans at 1304.

Rob made motion to accept 9/12 minutes as proposed, motion was seconded by Win Goodrich. Minutes were unanimously accepted as written.

National Preparedness Month – Rob

Governor's proclamation was announced. Many agencies partnered and participated. Fire safety awareness is this month (October). Rob believes the timing was appropriate. Best time to make these announcements is at the start of the year. Win reinforced the need to get school safety information out at the beginning of the school year. Same concerns raised by Superintendents Association in September. was a very busy month.

Rob spoke briefly on the Las Vegas shooting. We need to continue this dialogue nationally, not just schools. Our response plans will continually change. We need to always be prepared.

School Safety Conference. – Rob. Date: November 30, 2017, Sheraton Conf Center, So. Burl.

Thanks to Mark for VSBIT vendor coordination and Win coordinating for keynote speaker. The Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust (VSBIT) will sponsor the keynote speaker and the focus will be on "How to maintain organizational and individual resiliency following a critical incident". **Dr. Joelle van Lent** is the keynote speaker and she is a licensed psychologist with over 20 years of experience working with children, families, and child serving agencies will discuss the neuroscience of resilience and trauma and

how that information can guide the development of tools and strategies for school professionals and emergency first responders to use in the event of a critical incident. This is the morning session. November 30th. Breakout sessions will follow throughout the day. VSCPT members will introduce the breakout speakers. Win, Barbara, Mark and Rob volunteered. VSBIT is a major sponsor and partner. If something happens in your building, i.e., trauma situation, this conference is for you. The cap for the conference is 250 people. Win commented that law enforcement and school people tend to sit within their own groups. We need to spread them out. Perhaps we do it by geographic areas to sit, list by counties?

Rob wanted to know if we are we missing any professions, such as Vermont Sheriffs? Mark is meeting with Roger Marcoux and Bill Bohnyak, Orange county. Win wants VT NEA in attendance, too. Barbara is concerned about the parent perspective. There is no VT PTO and parents need to know how they fit into our planning and response. "What do they need and how do they fit in to our planning?" Cross-pollination would be a good benefit at the conference. Rob may try to separate areas of the state and sit them in specific areas. Leo raised a concern about the religious community. They were very helpful throughout the Essex shooting in 2006.

Rob believes VT Chiefs and VSP station commanders have been contacted. LT Hugh O'Donnell (VSP) said that the Vermont State Police have a power point presentation on Tactical EMS and is getting more of responder training needs together and including the school nurses.

List of break out sessions is as follows:

- How to Conduct an Effective School Safety Drill or Exercise
- New and Emerging Trends in Tactical Emergency Medicine
- Best and Promising Practices in Security Technology Solutions
- Lessons Learned from South Burlington High School and Essex High School Incidents (Spring 2017)
- Managing the Media and Crisis Communication

Information Technology conference call is being held to review IT infrastructure during a crisis. This is at 1:00pm, October 11th. Peter Drescher is coordinating. Sharonlee, brought up a question how school nurses get information/health info on students if they are sent to hospital. This will be handled by Vince Gonnillo tomorrow on conference call

Incident Command Training – Proposal by Leo to add IC training to conference

A three hour Incident Command training is offered by Vermont Emergency Management throughout the state and eight are complete at this point. This is important deliverable training. All training opportunities are listed on the Vermont Safety Center web site. We will not be adding this to the conference schedule at this time.

Creative ideas things to consider will be included in the December meeting agenda. Deanna will try to complete this with Charlotte.

Peer leadership –a question came up on how to get students involved in opiate and school crisis planning. Need resources from team members if you have them.

Parent PP presentation -Leo

Leo created a PP presentation on how to deal with parents during an emergency; what training can be done for them like learning school emergency response codes, encouraging them not to respond by coming to school and waiting for law of school messages. How does **Relocation** work for them? They need to learn to get information from accurate sources, from authorities, not social media. Controlling emotions is important, be cautious near the scene (they block the scene),FOCUS. Principals and Superintendents should share this PowerPoint when completed.

Conversation with parents: We should get information out to them at beginning of school year. Pat and Deanna agree.

Acceptable Use policy.

What do we do about camera footage? Who has access? Emily Simmons, VSBA, says it is the most complicated area of school law now, especially buses and video. Emily S. will try to get a model policy up on the web site. Mark has seen court case studies on this and he will discuss this with Tim. Win has this ready for the November meeting. **Responsible Use instead of acceptable use.** There is a policy, a model policy, on cameras in schools. People who HANDLE this technology need guidelines. And parents need to know how it is used. Corporate buses vs private buses. Parents want to see any video, too. They want proof of what happened. Emily S. says it is a FERPA issue. Vice-Principals need a policy because they are the ones who get the calls from parents. There is an Evidentiary Issue involved in this, too. Win has policies for this; one is bus and camera filming, the other is filming students in school. Tony says the landscape has changed so much recently with police officer body cams. It will become more complex, like a police officer with a body camera entering a school. Police are struggling with this. They deal with these kids beyond the school walls. Pat mentioned it is in labor agreements with teachers not to film classrooms during lessons without permission.

School Safety Threat Legislation. Rob E. proposal

Should there be a conversation around elevating response and punishment for the impacts these events create? Kari asked if there is there data available on the effects of this legislation? Leo bumped up the seriousness around bomb threats through the legislature. A lot of time and money is spent on responding to these threats. Misdemeanors do not rise to a very high level of punishment.

Win and Leo motioned to form a sub-committee this issue. Motion passed. Rob, Win, Leo, Steve and Dave volunteered to work on it for the VSCPT.

DOOR LOCKS.

Many products are being touted as effective safety devices for classroom doors during an emergency. Night Watchman is an example. Rob began the discussion. VT Fire Safety has not approved any specific devices but releases specific safety point to consider when evaluating a locking device. Bill commented that Hide, Escape, Barricade, Fight Back are the steps to keep in mind when considering new devices. These new door closures have some apparent faults and should not be used without Fire Safety approval. Bill is writing up a "Best Practice" guideline for all fire departments in the state. Preapproval from area Fire safety personnel is very important. This will be distributed to all fire departments throughout the state. "You don't want to use a device that might deny entry to responders". Bill will bring us the guidance at the January meeting.

ALL BUCKET ITEMS COVERED.

Mark, VSBIT, have general information on insurance issues for relocation. Tim, Dan (Red Cross) Mark, then to Ron and Steve. Mark put together some info with Tim and sent it to us a couple of months ago. They are waiting for Dan to come back from deployment to finish the outline. In the meantime, please send requests or issues to be addressed to Mark or Tim who will go to Rob and Steve.

Next Meeting **December 5th, 1:00pm, 2017**. No November meeting because of the Conference.

Motion to adjourn passed at 14:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Earley, Chair, VSCPT

Discussion of parking lot items – Rob Evans

Best Practices for dealing with trauma following a disaster and untimely death recovery best practices

Action: Considerations document will be created by Charlotte and Margaret.

Opiate Crisis Guidance – Include presentation from AOE & VDH Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Program Facilities (Sharon Lee, Rob, Mary Ellen)

Action: Sharon Lee will take the lead on this to schedule a conference call.

Video Acceptable Use Policy (Rob, Win)

Action: Rob and Win will continue to work with the School Board Association on this document.

Tactical EMS and how school medical staff can get involved in the process (Dan B, Tony) Work has already begun on this with Vermont State Police. This document should really focus on what it looks like to have tactical EMS inside of the school, as well as the resources that schools can provide to ease the burden on EMS, including first response medicine (such as Stop the Bleed).

Action: Dan B. will continue to lead this effort.

Liability Insurance for schools serving as non-arc shelters (Mark)

Action: Mark will continue to lead this effort.

American Red Cross MCI course

Action: Wait until Dan L is available to discuss.