

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

**December 5, 2017 Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:**

Barbara Bloom, School Counselor Association  
Emily Harris, Vermont Emergency Management  
Kari Hancock, VT Dept of Health – EMS for Children  
Leo Nadeau, Public Representative  
Mark Moody, VT School Boards Insurance Trust  
Pat McManamon, Department of Motor Vehicles  
Rob Evans, Agency of Education  
Tim Cloutre, Vermont State Police

Tony Facos, VT Chiefs of Police  
William Brown, Division of Fire Safety

**On the phone:**

Stephen Earley, Chair VSCPT  
Mary Ellen Mendl, Vermont 211  
Sharonlee Trefry, VT Dept of Health – School Nurses

**Introductions, acceptance of October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting minutes**

Meeting was called to order by Rob Evans at 1300.

Pat McManamon made a motion to accept the 10/10 minutes as proposed, motion was seconded by Leo Nadeau. Minutes were accepted as written.

**School Safety Conference - Rob Evans**

The conference was held last week on November 30<sup>th</sup>. We had about 300 attendees, with good representation from first responders, mental health and school administration. To date, 92 conference critiques have been received, and the deadline for submission is the holiday break. Once all the critiques are in, Rob will send a report out to the team.

There was a fantastic planning team for this conference, which included members of the School Crisis Planning Team as well as the Agency of Education.

Tactical EMS Presentation

As a result of this conference, in early 2018 Dan Batsie will be putting together a package for schools about the first aid actions that can be taken by school staff. This package may be followed up by a facilitated dialogue or video training posted on the website. Next summer, we should put a focus on the national "[Stop the Bleed](#)" initiative.

There is the outstanding issue of funding for tactical EMS equipment, especially for some of the smaller departments. A conversation needs to occur with Homeland Security on if there is funding available for Tactical EMS, and how it can be accessed.

Keynote Address

While the keynote was good, it lost Law Enforcement during the second half. Next year, we should consider a shorter hour-long keynote, then launch into breakouts.

**Acceptable/Responsible Use policy – Rob Evans**

This policy for the use of cameras in schools is still being worked on by the School Board Association. This initiative needs to continue.

### **Drug Paraphernalia in Schools**— *Rob Evans & Sharonlee Trefry*

There was a news article this morning about a Brattleboro student who found drug paraphernalia in the parking lot at school.

For 2 years, the Department of Health has made [resources available to schools](#) and encouraged schools to establish a system for dealing with this. We need to make sure that school leadership is aware that these resources exist. There is an opportunity for additional education through an online training.

### **School Safety Threat Legislation** – *Rob Evans*

Vermont is right in the middle when it comes to penalties for making threats. During a meeting this morning with the Department of Public Safety Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel, it was decided that the next step is to have a conversation with the States Attorney's Office and US Attorney's Office to discuss the impact that these threats have on the whole community, so they have awareness of the consequences when they are considering prosecution. We don't expect to have additional legislation on this topic this year.

### **Upcoming District Planning Sessions** – *Rob Evans & Emily Harris*

We've been doing some work with Windsor Central Supervisory Union recently, and we'll be making another trip down there for a planning meeting in January.

We're meeting with Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union on some planning work next week.

We've also been requested to go provide assistance at Champlain Valley Union. Dates have not yet been determined.

We're trending in exactly the direction we were hoping for, with Supervisory Unions asking for planning assistance. This more holistic approach will result in better planning.

### **EMS Conference Report** - *Rob Evans & Emily Harris*

We did our traveling roadshow at the EMS conference on November 11<sup>th</sup>, where we showed the coming storm and reviewed best practices in school safety. There were about 20 folks in our session, and they were engaged. As other associations have conferences, they should keep us in mind.

### **Parking Lot**

Peer leadership (how to get students involved in opiate and school crisis planning)

Win was leading this effort to get resources together, but it is a group project.

*Action: Win should contact Sharon Lee for additional resources*

Creative ideas things to consider (Deanna will try to complete this with Charlotte)

Charlotte and Deanna were not in attendance.

Parent PP presentation (how to deal with parents during an emergency)

*Action: After the first of the year, Rob and Emily will work on the presentation created by Leo to tape a video training.*

Door Locks and Egress (preapproval from Fire Safety personnel is important before purchasing secondary locking devices)

There is an issue with some folks saying that egress doesn't matter, but fires and hazmat incidents still occur in schools. It's important that schools keep an options-based approach in mind, and have a diverse Public Safety Team with representation from all relevant agencies.

When schools exercise, they tend to practice that once the alarm is no longer sounding that it is safe to enter. During a real event, that isn't true – the Fire Department turns off the alarm so they can communicate, not to indicate that everything is OK. Schools need to establish a process for verifying that the school is safe and relaying that information to staff.

*Action: Bill will review the draft set of building codes that will be adopted in the next few months and discuss it at a future meeting.*

*Action: Bill will send the draft set of building codes to Rob and Mark for their review.*

School Insurance (general information for schools on insurance issues for relocation)

VSBIT & ARC have put together a draft document that takes into consideration issues that were discussed at the last meeting. This document is meant to be applicable to all schools, so it needs to remain very broad.

*Action: The draft document will be sent out with the draft meeting notes for team review. Please submit your feedback to Mark before the next meeting.*

Vermont State Police Lucas Hall presentation

Lucas Hall has created a School Safety presentation as part of the Leadership in Police Organizations course. Prior to him distributing this presentation, we would like this team to review it and provide feedback. Once the presentation is finalized, it can be used as a guiding document during School Safety Month. It is important that we have consistent messaging from all organizations.

*Action: Lucas Hall will give a 30 minute presentation at the January meeting.*

Annual Report

Rob will be putting together an annual report at the beginning of 2018. This will be shared with the Agency of Education Secretary and Department of Public Safety Commissioner and highlight the work of the School Safety Center. From this, Rob will also create a bi-annual newsletter.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 1300 in the State Emergency Operations Center. After that, meetings will be held alternating months until we get to the start of the next school year.