

Approved: May 8, 2018

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

March 13, 2018 Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Bob Costantino, Agency of Human Services
David Manning, Vermont Principals Association
Emily Harris, Vermont Emergency Management
Rob Evans, Agency of Education
Timothy Clouatre, Vermont State Police
Tony Facos, Vermont Chiefs of Police

On phone:

Barbara Bloom, School Counselor Association
Charlotte McCorkel, Howard Center
representing Department of Mental Health
Mark Moody, Vermont School Boards Insurance
Trust
Leo Nadeau, Public representative
Mary Ellen Mendl, Vermont 211
Sharonlee Trefry, VDH – School Nurses
Steve Earley, Senior Advisor

Introductions, acceptance of January 9, 2018 meeting notes – Rob Evans

Timothy Clouatre made a motion to accept the meeting notes from the January 9th meeting as written. Sharonlee Trefry seconded the motion. Meeting notes were unanimously accepted.

Updates from the Field

• **Recent meetings/trainings/incidents – Rob Evans**

- There have been many conversations at the state and federal level about potential school safety initiatives. If money is made available to go towards these initiatives, it is hoped that some members of this team can help review grant applications and provide advice and counsel on them.
- If you get calls from the media, please make sure the information you provide is consistent with what the team has been saying.
- Emily & Rob are going to focus attention for the next 9 months on Supervisory Union Planning Initiatives.
- Over the summer, we're intending to once more provide Incident Command System and Crisis Communication training to schools.
- In February, Emily & Rob provided an overview of the current School Crisis Initiatives to the Governor's Cabinet.
- In February/March, Emily & Rob have been assisting Fair Haven in dealing with the incident that they had in February, including participation in an incident debrief with school officials and first responders, as well as a community meeting. This team utilized the behavior threat assessment team process to prevent an incident from occurring, and we may want to consider bringing that course back to Vermont so others can benefit as well.
- The Governor felt that it was important to have Law Enforcement visit schools throughout the month of March, so State, County and Local Law Enforcement will be visiting schools in Vermont and completing a school safety survey. This survey is in part based on the questions

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asked back in 2016, and the results of this survey will be shared with the governor to make decisions about security initiatives. Due to the sensitive nature of the survey results it is not expected to be publicly available.

- March 12th was the Stop School Violence Act Conference Call with the federal government. Based on that call, there is a federal push for School Resource Officers, Behavioral Threat Assessment, and Teachers being trained and armed, but we need to wait for guidance from the Secretary of Education and Commissioner of Public Safety for additional guidance.
 - March 14th is a National School Walkout day, and the Secretary of Education has issued guidance to Superintendents and Principals about this event.
 - March 14th, St. Albans Police Department is sponsoring “Survive VT” to discuss Run, Hide, Fight and See Something, Say Something with the public.
 - March 24th, Montpelier is expecting about 5,000 for the March for Our Lives event at the statehouse.
 - *Sharonlee Trefry*: In other countries, students are trained in skills such as First Aid and CPR. This training in First Aid and CPR may be something we want to think about. To follow on the “See Something, Say Something” message, we might want to look at what resources there are to build these risk reduction and promoting positive school climate student-based skills.
 - *Tony Facos*: We need to consider how School Resource Officers will be utilized within a consolidated school district when there is a geographic separation between the schools.
 - *Mark Moody*: I’ve heard about something called Social Sentinel that can be used to monitor Social Media for schools. Does anyone have more information about that? *Rob Evans*: There are many businesses out there including Social Sentinel and Geofeedia that can monitor social media.
 - *Mark Moody and Barbara Bloom*: Schools need to make sure there are adults that students know they can go to if they have concerns.
 - *Mark Moody*: When we think about school safety initiatives, the focus need to be on schools doing the minimum (such as locking the doors) before money is spent on larger projects.
- **Montpelier conference call** – *Rob Evans, Emily Harris & Tony Facos*
 - On February 20th, a critical incident debrief conference call was held for the incident that occurred at Montpelier High School on January 16th. Montpelier School District, Montpelier High School, Montpelier Police Department, Emily & Rob were all a part of that call, and individuals could pose questions by emailing them to Rob during the call.
 - Due to the sensitive nature of the topics discuss, the Agency of Education has decided against making the link to this recording public. We will create a lessons-learned document instead to highlight what was learned from this incident.
 - **Parent Training Video** – *Rob Evans & Emily Harris*
 - Unfortunately, recent events have pushed back the date for creating this video. Rob & Emily are planning to create it during early April and release it at the beginning of the school year so it doesn’t get lost.
 - **Mental Health Resources** – *Rob Evans*
 - We’ve received a lot of positive feedback about the resources on our website. Charlotte has provided a lot of great resources – thank you!
 - **Opioid Training Video** – *Sharonlee Trefry, Dan Batsie, Kari Hancock*

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- This project will be delayed until the fall.
- **First Aid Training Video** - *Sharonlee Trefry, Dan Batsie, Kari Hancock*
 - An initial meeting was held about this in January. In addition to the School Nurse, Physical Education and Health Education folks are expected to be certified in CPR/First Aid.
 - *Action: Rob will reach out to Dan Batsie to begin this conversation again.*
- **Moving Beyond the Traditional Lockdown Presentation** – *Rob Evans*
 - In 2015 memo from the Secretary of Education and Commissioner of Public Safety went out to all schools advising them to move to an options-based response protocol. We do not have a clear understanding of how many schools have followed that advice.
 - At a leadership symposium in Summer 2018, a Moving Beyond the Traditional Lockdown presentation will be delivered to Superintendents and Principals with the idea that they would then bring the presentation back to their schools.

School Safety Initiative Checklist – *Rob Evans*

- *Action: This item will be moved to the parking lot. We need to complete the March School Safety Assessments before looking at this item further.*

Acceptable/Responsible Use policy – *Rob Evans*

- *Action: This item will be moved to the parking lot until the School Boards Association is able to address it.*

School Insurance Document Discussion/Approval – *Mark Moody*

- Draft Document was sent out to the team back in December/January for review. This document was created by Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust and American Red Cross to give a broad overview of insurance considerations.
- *Leo Nadeau:* Will this document make organizations not want to be a Reunification Site? *Mark Moody:* The document is designed to be informational only. Organizations should follow up with their insurance companies if they have specific questions.
- *Action: The team will be resent this document and will have until April 12th to review it. If changes are needed, they should be emailed to Emily, Rob and Mark for visibility. If no changes are suggested, the document will be added to the website on April 13th.*

Parking Lot – *Rob Evans*

- Secondary Door Locks - *Bill Brown*
 - *Action: Additional Guidance is needed from the Division of Fire Safety before this conversation can occur.*

Next Meeting/Adjournment – *Rob Evans*

Our next meeting will happen on Tuesday, May 8th at 1pm in the State Emergency Operations Center. Especially with everything we have going on, it is really important that each organization is represented at these meetings – so if you are unable to make it, please send a designee.

The meeting was adjourned at 2pm.