

SCHOOL SAFETY WORKING GROUP

Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the 2018 Interim

October 8, 2018

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 6th meeting of the School Safety Working Group was held on Monday, October 8, 2018, at 10:00 AM, in Highland Heights, KY, Northern Kentucky University (NKU). Senator Max Wise, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Max Wise, Co-Chair; Representative John Carney, Co-Chair; Senators Danny Carroll and Johnny Ray Turner; Representatives John Blanton, George Brown Jr., and Brandon Reed; Jon Akers, Joe Bargione, Jerry Humble, Nasim Mohammadzadeh, Alex Payne, Andy Smith, and Henry Webb.

LRC Staff: Yvette Perry, Christal White, and Lauren Busch.

Senator Wise recognized NKU Presidential Ambassadors Allison Weihe, Ramona Rowan, and George Ivan for assisting and preparing for today's meeting.

Representative Carney reported the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) was impressed with Kentucky's accomplishments regarding school safety.

Mr. Van Nadler, VP of Student Affairs, NKU, invited the committee and audience to explore NKU's expanding campus. His office, which oversees the campus police department, was recognized this year as the third safest campus in America and one of the safest towns in America. Mr. Nadler provides updates on campus public safety initiatives and ensures students focus only on learning while at any postsecondary institution.

District 24 Senator Will Schroeder, a 2008 graduate of the NKU law school, said the university has experienced tremendous growth. He encouraged members to further explore the campus upon adjournment of the SSWG meeting.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Representative Reed and a second by Senator Carroll, the minutes of the September 10, 2018 meeting were adopted by voice vote.

Mom's Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

Representing Mom's Demand Action For Gun Sense in America were Connie Coartney, Crestwood, Karl Stankovic, Magnolia, and Julie Kuhnhein, Ft. Thomas.

Ms. Coartney, Kentucky Chapter Lead for Mom's Demand Action, said the group was created by Shannon Watts on December 14, 2012, following the Sandy Hook school shooting. Because Ms. Watts was unable to find a support group addressing gun safety, she created a volunteer-led, non-partisan, grassroots organization. Mom's Demand Action now has chapters in fifteen states with over five million supporters. As the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country, Mom's Demand Action members include parents, grandparents, survivors, gun owners, educators, veterans, medical professionals, and anyone concerned about gun violence. The group's primary focus is the safety of children at home, school, or play.

Ms. Coartney said arming teachers is dangerous and irresponsible and ignores research that gun presence in schools increases risks posed to children. While the majority of states realize the danger in arming teachers and staff, in the nine states who passed legislation to allow guns in schools, many schools have opted out. During this year alone, 15 states defeated legislation to allow guns in schools. Ms. Coartney said arming teachers creates an illusion of protection for students while actually putting them in more danger.

According to a recent survey, a majority of children are aware of where parents store their guns, more than one-third of children surveyed reportedly handled parents' guns, and 40 percent did so without parental knowledge. Regardless of age, unsecured access to a firearm doubles the risk of homicidal deaths and is the second leading cause of death in American children and teens. Many unintentional or self-inflicted shootings are fatal.

Ms. Coartney said several instances of gunfire on school grounds this year were reported as accidental discharges from professionals' weapons. While gun lobbyists think arming teachers will deter and stop active school shooters, Mom's Demand Action disagrees. According to FBI reports on 250 active shooter situations, armed civilians successfully stopped the shooter in only seven cases. In contrast, unarmed civilians intervened in 22 incidents and ended the threat in 59 percent of the cases. Ms. Coartney said armed civilians endanger law enforcement, delay law enforcement response, and pose a risk to innocent bystanders during active shooter situations. Teachers face constant distractions without guns in schools and Mom's Demand Action believes schools opting in may face legal and liability issues. Ms. Coartney said arming teachers will place a financial burden on school districts and ultimately on taxpayers due to the costs of training and providing firearms and ammunition. America's teachers, school safety experts, and law enforcement officers agree that arming teachers is a risk.

A National Teacher's Association (NTA) poll showed 82 percent of teachers said they refuse to carry a gun to school, including 63 percent who are actual gun owners. Two-thirds said they would feel less safe if teachers and educators are allowed to carry weapons.

Sixty nine percent of National Education Association (NEA) members said arming school personnel is ineffective in preventing gun violence. Ms. Coartney said protecting children with gun safety laws is more effective when proactive, common sense solutions are used, such as background checks for all gun sales and red flag laws, also known as Extreme Risk Protective Orders, for domestic abusers.

Under current federal law, criminal background checks are required by licensed dealers only and creates an easily exploited dangerous loophole. Connecticut's legislation requiring background checks on all gun sales lessened the homicide rate by 40 percent and suicides by 15 percent.

Red flag laws empower judges to temporarily block a person from possessing a gun if they are a danger to themselves or others. In the Parkland, Florida shooting, the mother or police could have prevented the tragedy had this been law. Mom's Demand Action said domestic violence abusers or those with restraining orders against them should not be allowed to purchase guns, should relinquish any weapons in their possession, and legislation should include all abusers, regardless of relationship status. With October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Ms. Coartney said gun access in domestic violence cases increases the chance of an incident more than five times. For children under the age of 13, homicides are often connected to domestic or family violence.

Research shows that an estimated 4.6 million children live in homes with at least one loaded, unlocked and unsecured gun. Roughly 300 children under 17 years of age gain access to a gun and shoot another person or themselves unintentionally and another 500 die by suicide. Most of these deaths are preventable with responsible gun storage.

Ms. Coartney said Mom's Demand Action instituted a Be SMART Program to address responsible gun behavior. **S**ecure guns in homes and vehicles, **M**odel responsible behavior, **A**sk about unsecured guns in other homes, **R**ecognize risks of all teen suicides, and **T**ell your peers about the Be Smart Program. Preventive measures and proactive approaches such as student mental and emotional health support, school safety experts and trained law enforcement professionals' recommendations, and opinions from educators are needed to avoid further incidents.

Mr. Stankovic, a retired former federal agent and special response team supervisor with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, developed and implemented judgement and situational training for local law enforcement facilities. He said veterans and retired law enforcement officers may need additional and current training to become an effective School Resource Officer (SRO).

Mr. Payne, Commissioner of the Department of Criminal Justice Training, said becoming an officer in Kentucky requires completion of one of Kentucky's four police academies. Kentucky League of Cities and Kentucky Association of County Officials are

the primary insurers for officers and require 40 hours of training for officers each year. Eight thousand to 9,000 police officers complete in-service firearms training based on judgmental shootings, actual scenarios, and reactionary environments. In-service training is far more extensive than a simple conceal-carry course.

In response to Senator Carroll's question, Mr. Stankovic said specific training parameters must be established for SROs. Another concern of Moms Demand Action is while SROs are certified, school officials admit they are unaware of specific training requirements.

In response to a question by Sen. Wise, Ms. Coartney said the 50 Mom's Demand Action chapters focus on school safety but the organization has no official stance on SROs.

Dr. Bargione agreed preventive measures are necessary. Responding to his question, Ms. Kuhnhein said Mom's Demand Action wants focus placed on social and emotional health through increased counselors, trained student leaders, and educational programs. Preventive and proactive approaches help students learn to identify and recognize emotions and respond in a way that is not destructive or hurtful. She encouraged districts to seek additional federal funding to reach these goals.

Senator Carroll said Marshall County's comprehensive, effective, and sustainable training includes social and emotional wellness and trauma-informed care for current and new teachers.

Postsecondary Campus Safety

Senator Wise introduced Bob King, President of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (KCPE). He and Representative Carney congratulated Mr. King on his promotion to Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education under US Department of Education (USDE) Secretary Betsy DeVos. Mr. King will continue working on school safety issues with active Secret Service Agent Mike Deguess who created school safety proposals similar to the protection of the President.

Mr. King introduced the presenters as Todd Gray, Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS); Tim Gray, Western Kentucky University (WKU); and Gary Lewis, University of Louisville (U of L).

Tim Gray, Public Information Officer at WKU, began his profession at WKU in housing and residence halls before earning a Master's Degree in Higher Education, Counseling and Student Affairs. He joined the WKU Police Department in 2011 and serves on the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, Louisville Division. Mr. Gray is a graduate of the Academy of Police Supervision and is a Defensive Tactics Coordinator. He has served in Rape Aggression Defense, has been a patrol officer, and has certificates in Leadership Studies and from the Dynamic Leadership Institute.

Todd Gray, Director of Safety and Emergency Services at KCTCS, previously served as an environmental health and safety lead. He is a retired lieutenant of the Lexington Fire Department and spent several years in local and statewide safety positions in North Carolina and Kentucky. Mr. Gray is a certified Fire Inspector and holds a degree in Criminal Justice and certificates in Emergency Management, Homeland Security, and from the National Association of Safety Professionals.

Gary Lewis, Director of Campus Safety and Chief of Police, is in charge of implementing and maintaining a campus safety plan and enforcing rules and regulations. A former Chief of Police at Cleveland State University, he served 22 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol before retiring as a commander, served as Senior Director of Media and Public Relations at Ohio State University, and is an FBI National Academy graduate.

Western Kentucky University

Mr. Tim Gray said WKU's jurisdiction is the main campus, surrounding streets, and any WKU owned or controlled property. WKU has a population of roughly 25,000 students, 25 sworn police officers, 9 communication officers, and 2 student workers. Although WKU officers hold state law enforcement powers, their primary focus is to provide needs of the community as it relates to students, faculty, and staff.

With active shooter trainings becoming as common as tornado and earthquake drills, officers are trained to respond quickly. WKU's mutual aid assistance and unified command training with local, city, state, and federal agencies offers additional resources to provide an organized resolution to an incident. The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) said the hiring of SROs had increased by 17 percent.

WKU equips officers with body cameras, combat tourniquets, quick clots and bandages, ballistic vests and helmets, medical kits, breaching tools, AR-15 rifles, and extra ammunition. In 50 percent of single-officer entry cases, one-third of police officers were shot. Statistics show the attacker was shot in 62 percent of incidents, the attacker was subdued 13 percent of the time, and the suspect killed himself 25 percent of the time.

An amendment to the 1990 Jeanne Clery Act required institutions of higher education to collect and report campus crime statistics and use a multi-modal emergency warning system to disperse information as quickly as possible. This is accomplished through text messaging, email, social media, sirens, common area electronic signs, desktop alerts, and WKU's website. WKU holds a weekly campus partners group meeting to ensure at-risk individuals are on everyone's radar. The university's RAVE Guardian App encourages students to register phones and create personal profiles to allow dispatchers to immediately provide police with a GPS location. Students accessing strategically placed emergency campus phones are immediately connected to dispatch. A light atop the phone flashes to attract attention, the closest camera in the vicinity automatically turns to view

the area, and a student's location is pinged. These measures help save lives by reducing response times.

WKU created a Run, Hide, Fight training video to help students, staff, and the community to understand what actions to take in an active shooter event. It stresses the importance of being aware of surroundings at all times. WKU takes pride in community, police, and crime prevention programs to be part of the solution.

CKTCS

Mr. Todd Gray said KCTCS is a statewide commuter campus program with a total enrollment of about 107,000 students. Forty seven percent of KCTCS students are part time, 53 percent are full time, and over 40,000 students are over the age of 25. Over 17,000 students are enrolled in dual credit courses online or on campus. KCTCS has no residence halls but has 16 colleges in 53 towns and cities with over 70 facilities.

KCTCS created a system coordination and public safety group at each college to share ideas, experiences, resources, and individual case studies. Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) are based on risk assessment to manage crises on campus and training has been increased regionally and statewide based on the EOP of each college. Mass notification processes are evaluated through training exercises and components of the plan are tested with revisions and updates as needed. Mr. Gray said the Safety Notification Alert Process (SNAP) mass notification system is used by KCTCS and generates emergency e-mails, phone calls, and SMS text messages. SNAP is available for students, faculty, staff, and parents and is activated immediately detailing the type of emergency that exists. KCTCS has crisis management teams (CMT) and uses a multidisciplinary approach to discuss response during and after a crisis event. CMTs meet regularly to communicate current issues related to their respective colleges.

Equally important is a process to address potential crisis events prior to an event. Behavioral Intervention Teams (BIT) provide administrators, faculty, staff and students with a means to report concerns about behavior that poses a threat to students, faculty, staff, or the community. BITs link distressed individuals to appropriate services while balancing individual safety rights with the safety rights of others.

Mr. Gray said KCTCS objectives are a foundation of transparency, team interaction, improved communications, and continuous training. These programs and initiatives provide an approach for future enhancements in security and safety at all KCTCS college sites. KCTCS's mission is to provide a safe learning environment for students, faculty, and staff.

University of Louisville

Chief Gary Lewis, U of L, said the integrity of college's and universities' safety and security is vital to its law enforcement agency, as public perception matters. He said

“predictable is preventable.” From a risk management perspective, emergency preparedness is critical, including severe weather alerts, National Incident Management Training, sexual assault reporting and notification, inter-operability and communication, and active shooter training. Strategic planning at U of L includes creating partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies to conduct risk and threat assessments to evaluate needs of the campus community. All Kentucky campus police departments have mutual aid agreements with federal, state, and local agencies to provide immediate assistance support during critical incidents or crises.

U of L’s safety message and theme, *Safety is Our Cardinal Rule*, is constantly reinforced to students, faculty, and staff. Community relations promotes vision, including partnerships with other law enforcement agencies. Using realistic and Clery Act data, building public perception for understanding and support, engaging stakeholders and key audiences in program initiatives, building on success and innovation, and recognizing trends strengthens stakeholder dialogue. U of L created a Facebook page and Twitter account for better communication.

Chief Lewis said U of L looked at predictive models of specific days and times national school shooting crises took place and utilized resource reallocation models to address specific issues.

In response to a question by Senator Carroll, Mr. Todd Gray said the cost of personnel, training, cameras, capital projects, and access control for lockdowns is not within their budget. He said getting competitive salaries to minimize turnover is essential.

Representative Carney said various vendors can provide technology for communication at all levels but providing a positive and engaging environment, providing mental health awareness and access, building partnerships, focusing on training for SROs, and working on communication issues with all government entities are critical in finding a common sense solution to school safety.

Major General Humble said officers should engage in live-fire shoot houses located throughout Kentucky. In his opinion volunteers, teachers, previous law enforcement, or military are welcome as long as they have psychological evaluations, qualifications, and active shooter training. Major General Humble said SRO training needs to be analyzed as well. Mr. Akers expressed concern about putting guns in the hands of people who are not trained law enforcement officers.

Mr. Payne agreed with Representative Carney that school safety requires a multi-pronged approach. He said additional mental health professionals, extensively trained security officers, and controlled physical security are crucial for a comprehensive approach to school safety.

Responding to a question from Senator Wise, Mr. Tim Gray said school safety videos are typically included in orientation training at the beginning of the year; however it can be problematic ensuring all students participate in the training. One all-inclusive solution is for professors to allow safety training during all of their class periods.

Chief Lewis advocates school safety training two to three times per year to target incoming transfer students. He said being proactive and reinforcing school safety consistently over the course of the year is important.

Retired Officer Legislation

Senator Carroll said there is confusion between a SRO and a SLEO (Special Law Enforcement Officer). During the 2018 Regular Session, House Bill 366 made efforts to create an option for more retired officers to become SLEOs while being allowed to retain current state benefits. However, a drafting error in the legislation included SROs but omitted SLEOs, requiring a statute change in the 2019 Regular Session.

Mr. Larry Zacheretti, District School Resource Officer Supervisor in McCracken County School District, is a retiree of the Paducah Police Department and has been responsible for running what is considered to be a model SLEO program in McCracken County for 13 years.

The SLEO Program was implemented in 1998 subsequent to the 1997 Heath High School shooting after realizing it was an option to hire their own law enforcement officers through the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet. McCracken County has 8 security officers and an enrollment of 7000 students, a ratio of 875 students to one SLEO. McCracken County's SLEOs are former or retired police officers, Peace Officer Professional Standards Act (POPS) certified, and graduates of the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) Academy with district wide jurisdiction. Along with 40 hours of DOCJT training, the officers qualify on the shooting range three to four times every year.

Consolidated from four high schools to one school, the officers cope with typical fights, threats, thefts, truancy, drugs, alcohol, vapes, knives, and guns. McCracken County has over 300 surveillance cameras throughout their schools and 150 surveillance cameras in the high school alone. Cameras are an investigative tool and a great deterrent because kids know they are being watched. He said many of the ideas presented today are used in McCracken County.

Mr. Zacheretti said active shooter, fire, and natural disaster drills are conducted for SLEOs and staff. One Call Now, a mass communication system, is utilized to warn students, staff, and parents on an emergency basis. Additionally, McCracken County offers several beneficial online training programs for staff and students.

McCracken County chose to use a SLEO program rather than subcontracting through local law enforcement agencies because of the advantages of officers working directly under the control of the Board of Education and Superintendent. Most applicants for SLEO positions are retired police officers. Mr. Zacheretti said it is advantageous to hire police officers with experience, training, certifications, and familiarization with weapons.

In response to a question from Representative Carney, Mr. Zacheretti said SLEOs have district wide jurisdiction including bus stops, buses, and even while travelling to out of town events. McCracken County schools investigate their own crimes and get assistance from local law enforcement agencies if serious felonies occur. They complete KSP reports and work with the County Attorney's office and court designated workers.

Responding to a question from Senator Carroll, Mr. Zacheretti said the McCracken County budget of \$350,000 per year includes salaries, equipment, uniforms, vehicle maintenance, ballgames, and extracurricular activities involving overtime. McCracken County has been very supportive of the SLEO program and the board provides some funds for the cost of the cameras.

Senator Carroll said with only 70 to 75 SLEOs working within the state's school districts, the program is not being utilized widely. Once the health insurance aspect changes, more officers may be willing to become SLEOs.

In response to a question by Ms. Mohammadzadeh, Mr. Zacheretti clarified there are 150 cameras in the high school alone and over 300 throughout all 12 schools in their district. He said the climate is encouraging because cameras have affected how children behave. Mr. Zacheretti said surveillance cameras have no audio capacity and viewing access is limited without a court order. Mr. Akers clarified most surveillance cameras are not monitored in real time but record history should an event occur.

Senator Wise announced the SSWG will meet next on November 19th at 10 a.m. in Frankfort. The IJCE will meet on November 19th at 1 p.m.

The November 19, 2018 agenda will include a presentation from Jefferson County Public Schools. Another agenda topic may include insurance costs of school systems as it relates to school safety. Ms. Mohammadzadeh suggested a presentation by the Student Voice Team on the climate regarding school safety. Kentucky Youth Advocates have also reached out to the committee to present Medicaid billing.

Senator Wise also announced a meeting may be held at an off-site location in Eastern Kentucky as the SSWG wraps up in December. A date for that meeting has not yet been determined.

In response to a question from Dr. Bargione, Senator Wise said the committee hopes to have a report for the last meeting as to the direction Kentucky should go. He said while a task force dictates what is done legislatively, a working group simply reports on the information heard from the meetings. A working group does not draft legislation. Representative Carney suggested the SSWG have a conference call to make possible recommendations of action to be taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.