

School and Campus Safety Taskforce
Public Safety Workgroup

East Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building
January 17, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

The Honorable Marla Decker
Amy Atkinson
Weet Baldwin
Hugh "Skip" Blanchard
Chief Craig L. Branch
Captain Steve Carey
Chief Jim Cervera
John Childrey
Dewey Cornell, Ph.D.
Lee Day
Gene Deisinger, Ph.D.
Sheriff Danny Diggs
Colonel Robert Northern for Colonel Flaherty
Robert H. Foresman
Mark Gooch
John Lindstrom, Ph.D.
Chief Dave McCoy
Jillian McGarrity
Donna Michaelis
Chief Doug Middleton
Chief Chris Perkins
Dr. Deborah Pettit
Michael Reilly
Shannon Taylor
Garth Wheeler
Chief Jim Williams

Steve Witmer, office of the AG, Criminal Litigation, will be providing legal guidance to the Workgroup.

Introduction of Members

Opening and Charge of Workgroup

Secretary Decker described to the members how they were chosen, and described their charge. Then other members of her staff and members of DCJS staff present were introduced.

Present from DCJS (in addition to the Director, Garth Wheeler, and the Director of the Center for School Safety, Donna Michaelis, both Workgroup members):

Drew Molloy, Chief Deputy Director

Teresa Gooch, Director, Division of Law Enforcement

Rick Arrington, Crime Prevention Specialist

Sherri Johnson, Research Specialist

Shellie MacKenzie, School and Campus Safety Training Coordinator

Laurel Marks, Manager of Juvenile and Adult Services

Phil Miskovic, Policy Analyst from Secretary's office

Bryan Rhode, Deputy Secretary of Public Safety

Secretary Decker reminded the Workgroup that it is important that we move forward in the most productive way, and that includes keeping consistent with Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements. We must post any document that members ask that we share. Members are asked not to "reply all" because to do so and start a discussion would entail having a public meeting and would be in violation of FOIA.

All members received recommendations forms. Every idea that members have that they want to make sure gets presented and discussed must be sent on the recommendation form to Laurel. DCJS will compile them and present the group with a document that will be used to guide the discussion on the recommendations. Most of this initial meeting today is intended to provide the foundation for the discussion of recommendations. At the Roundtable portion of today's meeting, we will start to look at areas for discussion. We need to focus in the meetings scheduled in January on issues that are high priority during the legislative session, namely items with budgetary needs and items requiring legislative change. There will be time in the meetings held between January 31 through June for us to bring in speakers on issues in which members express interest.

Status report on school and campus safety in Virginia

Donna Michaelis presented a report on behalf of the School Safety Center. She shared school and campus safety efforts done in the past decade by DCJS. She then entertained questions from the Workgroup.

DCJS Research Center presentation on school surveys and relevant reports

Sherri Johnson presented on behalf of the Research Center. She then entertained questions from the Workgroup.

Roundtable discussion

Before beginning the roundtable discussion, Secretary Decker identified the areas that the Workgroup is tasked with:

- Reviewing School Safety audits
- Identifying best practices
 - Can probably be lower priority until after Jan 31st
- The concepts of SROs, SSOs, arming teachers, arming school personnel; these will be wrapped up around internal security for schools; this discussion will be in two areas: K-12 and campus
- Identify needed improvements to the various pieces in legislation – threat assessments, crisis management plans, audits (if involving legislation, these are high priority)
- Campus policies or procedures (if involving legislation, high priority)
- Examine current laws to identify gaps (since this deals with legislation, this area is high priority)
- Review recommendations in previous state and national reports and studies (DCJS will look at these and identify any recommendations still outstanding and to the extent that they require legislation they'll be high priority)
- Physical safety
- Perimeter protection issues
- Emergency notification issues
- Training, drills, prevention, school safety programs; school safety for personnel; security strategies

Public Comment

None.