

---

Issue Date: October 5, 2023

## Act 29, Sec. 4 Stakeholder Meeting 2

### Meeting Date:

October 5, 2023, 11 a.m.

**Facilitator:** Lindsey Hedges, Agency of Education (AOE)

**Note Taker:** Ted Fisher, AOE

### Presentation and Q&A

Presentation by Melissa A. Reeves, Ph.D., NCSP, LCMHC

- What defines a well-trained team? Usually “basic” training is a full day training. Then a series of ongoing training around legal and ethical issues, management, working and exercising case studies, looking at collected data. Unfortunately, one shot trainings often happen, but needs funding and commitment to ongoing training and advanced topics.
- What training for other individuals not part of behavioral threat assessments (BTA), educators, staff, students? One of the eight steps is training the community on what to look for, how to report. Don’t have to call “threat assessment,” could be “awareness training.” Could broaden: “when is someone struggling?”
- Are additional resources / persons required? Most effective is district level team, making sure proper training, guiding what data is collected, analyzing data.
- Re: “Threats to Comfort”, is it recommended that BTA process inform trends in school climate / community concerns to be addressed outside the process. E.g. if multiple reports of a particular threat to comfort are identified, does the model recommend that be reported out so it can be appropriately addressed.
- A reminder was given that Dr. Reeves is available for follow-up questions as we go along. Also, the State is working closely with Dr. Reeves, Randazzo and their colleagues to provide ongoing training and consulting on our policies.

### 2) Group Debrief and Conversation

Facilitator Prompts:

- Is there anything new you learned about BTAs in this presentation?
- If you had concerns with BTAs prior to the presentation, were any of the concerns addressed?



- Do you have any new concerns that came up during the presentation?
- Would you like more information on any of the topics covered?

### **Open Conversation Comments:**

- A question was raised about the relationship to School Safety Officers (SROs), and the need to ensure they are well trained and used appropriately.
  - It was noted that they are separate, but in the limited instances that law enforcement is needed as part of the BTA process it is important that they are familiar, so they need to be at the table for the training. On a separate topic ensuring the right people are selected to be SROs and that they receive robust and appropriate training is critical.
- A question was raised about whether AOE will update the guidance.
  - Yes, that was the intent, likely best time to reissue will be after the model policy is finalized.
- Question of where BTAs fit into the larger framework of supports and resources.
  - Model policy needs to keep in forefront that BTA not be all, end all. Important role in constraining the actions of the BTA, as well as provide appropriate links to other processes, supportive resources.
- Clarification – AOE is not drafting policy in these meetings. Intent is to hear from you all, pull out and gather what we see as the values and principles you all hold regarding school safety, and specifically BTAs. We will use the notes and feedback that we gather as guideposts when the Agency sits down to draft the model policy.
- Process question – will all of these items go into model policy?
  - Not necessarily, could inform guidance, or proposed amendments to the law per Act 29.
- Public comment period is coming in November, another opportunity to weigh in on written policy.
- AOE is hopeful that stakeholders will see a thread of their comments into the model policy.
- Have heard the theory. How is it working on the ground? What do families know?
- Challenges with resource problems – how do we make sure it happens in the best way? How do we organize?
- Biggest issue – higher level prioritization, getting data, looking at sample and snapshot. The biggest issue is getting the training, but then getting follow up training, ensuring sustainability.
- Act 29 – ORE tasked to work with AOE and VSSC on bias training and other resources. Does current training include work on implicit bias, and other?
  - Current training does have some additional slides as a result of Act 29, but looking to do more work.

### **3) Charter Follow Up**

- Reviewed changes and feedback, consensus adoption of Charter (attached)