

A perspective view of a school hallway. On the left and right sides are rows of orange lockers. The floor is made of light-colored, reflective tiles. The ceiling has a grid pattern with recessed lighting. In the background, there is a whiteboard with the word 'INFORMATION' written above it. There are also several doors and a clock on the wall.

Vermont School Safety

State Board of Education Meeting
December 21st, 2022

School Safety Team

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Current Safety Programs

- Behavioral Threat Assessment Training
- Governor's School Safety Conference
- REMS Emergency Operations Plan Development Training
- Legislative Work
- Funding Opportunities



Current challenges facing Vermont Schools



- Student behaviors
- Lack of mental health resources
- Planning challenges
- Funding
- Collaborations with local first responders
- Options based response initiatives

Behavioral Threat Assessment Program

Grant award of \$357,480, provided through the Department of Justice's STOP School Violence Threat Assessment and Technology Program, sought to expand statewide capacity to conduct Behavioral Threat Assessments in Vermont schools.

State established a Behavioral Threat Assessment training and program development initiative that will meet the needs of every school in Vermont, while building an internal subject matter expert capacity that will sustain Vermont's Behavioral Threat Assessment initiative for years to come.

To date the BTA program has trained over 600 education stakeholders. Train-the-Trainer program to be held in January 2023.

Department of Homeland Security Funding for BTA

In November, the Vermont School Safety Center was awarded \$150,000 to further the current Behavioral Threat Assessment Program

Will fund a two-year grant program of Awareness level training and Train-the-Trainer program to sustain statewide BTA program

DPS issued a Request for Proposals in early December

Submissions due by December 22nd

Proposals will be evaluated by a subcommittee and a recommendation will be presented to the VEM Director and DPS Commissioner

Governor's School Safety Conference

- Held November 4th at Double Tree Event Center
- About 340 education stakeholders in attendance, including Governor Scott
- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Marisa Randazzo of SIGMA Threat Management/Optic Technologies discussed the background and history of active shooter incidents and the tools and strategies that have been developed to mitigate the risks of these events in the future through threat assessment processes. Dr. Randazzo is an international expert on threat assessment and violence prevention, with over 25 years of experience investigating, assessing, and managing a broad array of threatening and dangerous situations. Before creating SIGMA, Dr. Randazzo served for ten years with the U.S. Secret Service.

GSSC Breakout Sessions

- Dr. Randazzo: ***Opportunities and Challenges When Building a Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Team***. Having worked with the State of Vermont to build threat assessment teams in schools across Vermont, Dr. Randazzo shared some national perspectives on the challenges and opportunities schools and school districts have experienced when developing these teams and the strategies developed to ensure their successful implementation.
- Harry Fell, Vermont HazMat: ***Stop the Bleed*** bodily trauma response training. Harry is currently appointed as Training Officer for the HazMat Team and has over three decades of Emergency Management and Response experience as a firefighter with the Winooski and Vergennes Fire Departments, and as a EMT with Colchester Rescue.
- Greg Marino, Lead Principal, Williston Schools: ***Implementation of Options Based Response to an Active Threat - "A Systems Approach"***. Greg and his colleagues discussed staff training, community outreach, student friendly incremental drill instruction and the successes and challenges they are experiencing with this initiative.

GSSC Breakout Sessions Continued

- Dan Pascal, Executive Vice President CPP (Margolis Healy): ***The Evolving Landscape in Physical Security Technology***. Dan discussed various options for selecting physical systems and technologies, policies, and discussed how to operationalize them with limited staffing and budgets. This included information about facility access control, visitor management, emergency communication, locks, keys, security cameras and more.
- Ms. Shannon Morton (MSW, CTM), Staff Safety Manager for DCF Family Services, and Stephanie Reale, MSW: ***Collaborating with Vermont's Department of Children and Families (DCF) when Managing Students of Concern***. This session discussed how this Division can work with schools and community partners when managing students of concern. Review of DCF process, collaboration, resources, communication, and safety planning.
- Superintendent Brooke Olsen-Farrell, Slate Valley Unified School District and members of her team: ***School Emergency Preparedness "A Superintendents Perspective"***. This session reviewed a system wide approach to school crisis planning. Brooke and her team shared the collaborative approach with local first responders and community leaders the district utilizes to attain their planning successes and address challenges they have experienced when developing their school crisis plans, policies and related procedures.

Readiness in Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Training Opportunity



- Vermont requested and was awarded the opportunity for the Federal REMS program to be delivered in April 2023
- Provide Emergency Operations Plan development for education stakeholders
- Four-hour, in person training
- Currently working to develop venue
- Furthers preparedness measures for schools

Legislative Work with AOE

- Drafting language on Quality Standards and Continuum of Improvement metrics for school facilities
- Focus on four areas:
 - Access Control
 - Emergency Operations Plans
 - Drills
 - Behavioral Threat Assessment



Future Funding Opportunities:

- Homeland Security Cybersecurity Grant Program
- Federal Bureau of Justice Authority (BJA)
 - BJA FY 22 Extreme Risk Protective Order and Firearm Crisis Intervention Training and Technical Assistance Initiative
 - BJA FY 2022- 2023 Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program Formula Solicitation
 - FY 2023 National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) Training and Technical Assistance Program
 - FY 2023 National Criminal History Improvement Program Supplemental Funding
 - Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE): Safe & Supportive Schools: Mental Health Service Professional (MHSP) Demonstration Grant Program

Questions?
