

Child Safety & Crisis Response Committee Meeting held on 01/17/05 at 25 Sigourney St.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner James Thomas who outlined the need to re-convene the Child safety and Crisis Response Committee. Introduction of all members was completed and then Deputy Commissioner Sandford outlined the goals of the re-convened committee.

Barbara P. Wolf from the office of Policy and Management gave an overview of the work accomplished by the previous committee and outlined the recommendations made by the committee. The following document was the culmination of statewide work done from May, 2002 until publication in January 2003, based on Special Act 02-8.

“Child Safety and Crisis Response” A report to the General Assembly Pursuant to Special Act 02-8 Prepared by the Office of Policy and Management In consultation with the Child Safety and Crisis Response Committee Prepared by the Office of Policy and Management in consultation with the Child Safety and Crisis Response Committee January 2003.

The document and process was described as an inventory of emergency preparedness activities in schools; recommendations and action plans for integration of schools, local services, all hazard planning and response and mental health support; the need for professional development and training for all school staff; and the need for improvement in communication between the state and locals including school superintendents. Federal funding of \$200,000 was anticipated. Approximately \$80,000 became available just recently to SDE to contract work on developing and delivering train the trainer programs for Regional Educational Organizations to roll out to individual school districts.

The group discussed the need for school, local and state integration and coordination of communication, training and practice/exercise of emergency and crisis response plans for children.

Other issues discussed were as follows:

- Provide and plan for all hazard emergencies for the most vulnerable populations – during a school day, approximately 25% of Connecticut’s population are in schools as students, teachers or staff.
- Expressed the need for a mandate requiring all 169 Connecticut cities & towns to work on School Preparedness and National Incident Management System (NIMS) – School Superintendents, Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs, Public Health, CEOs, etc. – then train Principals and Administrative staff and Teachers, Paraprofessional, and all other school staff. NIMS compliance required in communities receiving federal HLS funding.
- Coordinate the work that SDE is doing with RESCs (CERC as subcontractor) in development of Crisis Response Train-the-Trainer lessons/guide and the FEMA School Disaster Response Training. Develop for CEU credit.
- Review PA 02-8 and incorporate additional items – discreet health issues, communication to families, etc.
- Planning and actions based on time of day or day of week - during school day, weekend, school vacation, summer, etc.
- Communication and plans for all stakeholders - public and private schools (K-12) diverse age range and teaching/learning formats, technical schools, colleges & universities, child

care centers, pre-school, after school settings, kith & kin and informal child care settings, homeless shelters, DCF and residential facilities, parents at home with young children or home schooling, and the general public. Determine who is responsible/in charge of children according to setting. Consider similar plans made for convalescent homes and senior center day programs. Language barriers.

- Determine available funding and resources to support this work. Continuous training.
- On December 6, 2005 at 9:00 AM at the State Capital – Kids will be reading papers about their feelings and thoughts of September 11th – Sponsored by Commission on Children.
- Organizations Recommended to be invited: Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

The group planned for additional meetings at a bi-monthly interval to track what has been down and move forward to implement the recommendations of the original committee.

Participant 10/17/05

American Red Cross
David Brown

Commission on Children
Elaine Zimmerman

Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)
Robert J. Rader
Vincent A. Mustaro

Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents
David Larson

Connecticut Education Association
John Yrchik

Connecticut Emergency Management Association
Bruce Lockwood (Canton EM Director)

Department of Children and Families
DeAnna Paugus

Department of Education
Scott _____ (working with CREC & RESCs on School Crisis Planning)

Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS)
James "Skip" Thomas, Commissioner
Wayne Sandford, Deputy Commissioner
Brenda Bergeron, Attorney
Thomas Gavaghan, Area 3 Coordinator

Department of Social Services
Julie Bisi (for Peter Palermino, Family Services Division)

Governor's Prevention Partnership
Robert Lichtenstein

Office of Policy and Management
Barbara P. Wolf

Other Organizations invited but not in attendance:

Department of Public Health
Department of Public Safety – Connecticut State Police
Connecticut Police Chief's Association
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Early Childhood Alliance
Salvation Army
UCONN Health Center
Yale University