**Agenda**

Community Violence Task Force Meeting

November 29, 2018

9-11am

BGS Board Room #410

133 State Street, Montpelier

Call-in Information

1 - Introductions/Review of Task Force Charge/10-25-18 Minutes Review

No comments on charge or previous minutes

2 – Social Sentinel

Gary Margolis from Social Sentinel (SS), a Vermont based company that provides solution that scans public social media to identify potential threats to its client organizations, discussed what is possible in social media threat assessment. Social Sentinel operates under the premise that “leakage” of information occurs prior to harmful events. Social Sentinel compares about 1 billion posts per 24 hour period to its library of 500k behavioral threat indicators and sends alerts to their clients when a match is made. Clients include schools and event spaces and does not include law enforcement offices. Social Sentinel can also analyze the data to look at trends in anxiety, fear, etc within communities and provides support re: best practices for their clients. For more information go to [www.socialsentinel.com](http://www.socialsentinel.com).

Q: How is this serving communities outside of schools?

A: Municipalities are not set up to handle these type of threat assessment situations. SS only serves organizations that can manage the threat assessment.

Q: How does SS manage Title 9 Law?

A: Language is in the Library

Q: Is there an encroachment of privacy?

A: No. All information that SS analyzes is from public posts.

Q: Is there any evidence of efficacy?

A: Yes and no. They have anecdotal information but this type of data is hard to measure. It’s hard to count how many incidents didn’t happen.

Q: Cost?

A: Rural pricing structure is ~$1.25 per student.

Q: Do you have any insight on the demographics using social media in Vermont? For example, less use in the more rural areas with limited access.

A: Same as everywhere.

**TASK**: Dan to get more information – who in VT currently uses SS? How would something like this work in terms of response – who would support the schools? The group recommended a study to explore this and other options available.

3 - Discuss any recommendations we may have that are going to require funding as well as any potential legislative recommendations for interim report to the Governor.

**Prevention:** Reviewed the draft document from the subcommittee and determined that:

**A:** #3 “Design/Deliver a state wide public outreach/education campaign that reinforces the DHS “See Something/Say Something campaign.“ and #5 “Develop/Implement a school safety anonymous Tipline to identify concerning behaviors or actions that may have a negative impact on our schools” are already in process.

**B:** The Child Access Prevention Law proposal was discussed and there were two thoughts within the group, one to keep as proposed, penalizing unsafe storage, and one to modify the language to incentivize safe storage.

Comment: Rather than react after an event with a penalty, use preventative measures such as tax cuts or supplying free storage (gun safes). Ensure that the measures are equitable across income levels. It was noted that trigger locks are already distributed at time of sale and by various organizations.

Comment: Where is line between negligence and an accident?

Q: Is there evidence that this works in states that have the law?

A: The data is behavior based. There are no measures on the reduction of suicides as the laws are new.

Q: Is there a difference in the penalty if a child commits a crime or self-harm?

A: No.

**TASK**: Dr Bell to provide some data. Firearm suicides (children) are ~3 per year – all of which are using parents firearms.

Q: Should we consider finding for law enforcement to store confiscated firearms? Capt Manley believes that the Commissioner is working on this issue and this task force doesn’t need to address it. Also, there is a TA Grant in process to analyze all VT laws re: firearms.

**C:** Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) – There is no a lot of data and implementation has been slow. The group decided not to move forward with this recommendation to expand the law to allow family members to apply for an ERPO with the idea that there is a triage system that happens when these are filed through Law enforcement and there is family members can file a relief from abuse. Rory Thibault reports that the ERPO process has not been used yet and other laws have covered the removal of firearms and relief from abuse. It was suggested that the process be enhanced through current law.

**D:** Develop a multi-disciplined behavioral threat assessment capacity at the Supervisory Union/District and community level to identify concerning behaviors or actions that may have a negative impact on our schools.

Q: Have we looked at risk assessment vs threat assessment. Risk assessment can be implemented sooner.

A: Risk assessment is not included in this item as it is embossed in other recommendations.

In terms of risk assessment, do we need additional supports/funding for items listed? Strengthen Act 264 (services across domains, education, mental health, etc, required to work together. Need for an expedited process for risk assessment referrals. Waiting on funding often takes too long. **Is there a recommendation here?**

**Response:**

**A:** Recommend reciprocity in mental health licensing across states as needed, recognizing and encourancing the strength of our existing regions in helping others. Need OPR input.

**B:** Addition state funding for infrastructure. Last legislative session $4m was allocated to helping schools with security infrastructure but that money didn’t include allocation for private or independent schools.

**C:** ‘Stop the Bleed’ program: Training/Medical kits for school nurses

D: Discuss re: law enforcement need for funding. No additional need for training for first responders as that is covered in academy and in-service. Fire Departments have access to lock boxes for all schools – expand to Law Enforcement? Do all police have/need long guns (all state troopers have them). Money would be better spent on collaboration.

**TASK**: Heidi to look into VT Emergency Management disaster/mass casualty plan.

**Recovery**:

No legislative asks.

**A:** Funding for increased Mental Health first aid training.

**B:** Further explore the connection between suicide and community violence. Expand the Zero Suicide program.