**Notes**:

Governor’s Welcome

Melissa’s Welcome

Committee Introductions

This task force focus is not about the guns, it’s to assess the root cause of violence. Mission: Use evidence based, scientific data to create safer communities for everyone. Strengthen existing support systems/local teams. School safety. Reporter safety. Use of Open source intelligence gathering (twitter, etc). Assess existing policies, etc to break down barriers and increase collaboration.

**Meetings and schedule**: Executive Order is for 1.5 years but Chairs want to expedite the timeline to ensure efficient, quality work. Meeting location: Waterbury has video capacity, centralized meetings work better. Montpelier preferred. Pre-schedule monthly meetings for the Task Force. Subcommittees will meet separately and report back to the Task Force in the monthly meetings. August 15, September 19, October 25, November 29.

**TASK**: Melissa to communicate venue selection to the Governor’s Office

**TASK**: David to schedule out meetings in the Pavilion 4 conference room with projector and send invites to CVPT members.

**TASK**: Amy to generate agenda for September meeting based on pending action items

**TASK**: David to create a Google Doc site to be created to share work product. – done

**Mitigating Community Violence**: Dan reported on discussions he has had with FBI contacts. Discussed protective factors – create save places to thrive, multi-discipline, intervention to mitigate risk, access to services/treatment, welcoming/supportive cultures, weapon access (what are other states doing/recommending).

**TASK**: Dan to share best practice information provided by FBI

**Data and Reports:** See DataList.doc in Google Docs. Group discussed building resiliency, prevent toxic stress – 5 protective factors, possibility of building a comprehensive threat assessment process.

**TASK (Amy)**: Follow-up with Laurin Kasehagen re: presentation on AFEs and mental health access.

**TASK (Amy)**: Follow-up with Tracy Mongeon re: school based clinicians/BIs and Rob Evans on Resource Officers. (8/29)

Matt Valerio – How is Vermont different? We have the lowest rates in the nation and need to make sure that fact is perpetuated rather than anecdotal/alarmist information. Data informed. Melissa: Not good enough to prevent violence, we also need to focus on why/how people reach the level to even contemplate violent acts.

**TASK**: Prepare Presentation- Matt/Heidi to work on data so we can understand what we are looking at – Heidi has a list)

How do we better understand triggering events and mitigate. Mike Manley: group needs to assess re: reporter safety. George Merkel - ID kids long before the event based on behaviors. Though we have low crime rates, we don’t want to be complacent. Melissa – Data needed on risk factors -> triggering event. What is the difference between the kids with risk factors that do and do not commit violence? Dave Barkhuff – unique things about VT that would make an event more dire (access to services in rural communities). Robert Walsh – What happens to the offender? How does an individual in need label potentially harm them in the future and how do we protect them from the “boogie man” label? Could this be a triggering event? Roy Tibault – Juvenile Justice Reform – how are violent events handled (criminal v family), privacy protection. Don’t pigeonhole youth.

**TASK**: Amy to follow-up with GC, Karen Barber to get a summary of new Juvenile Justice Laws and new Gun Laws (sent)

Rob Evans – Response levels for all events. Ricks and vulnerability. Resources spent on response to be equally spent on prevention. Matt Valerio – Prevention techniques – isolation, removal, etc. – MA involuntary commit addicts. In VT, we don’t use invol commit as much as we could. Melissa – invol commit used for MH treatment v social issues. Dr. Bell: Suicide rates – VT in top quarter, related to youth firearm suicide. Suicide is a violent act. Access to lethal means, safe storage of firearms, build resiliency/safety. Externalizing and internalizing violent acts. Opportunity to study?

**TASK**: Link the ONH Study Committee under Act 200 (<http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/news/order-non-hospitalization-study-committee>)

Melissa – gap between criminal justice and mental health. What are each doing/not doing and how can we bridge the gap? Families struggling and perpetuating issues through generations.

**TASK**: Melissa to follow-up with Matt re: Justice System MH links and gaps. Treatment in Justice system?

Katherine - Civil remedies – what do we do with a child that shows need of assistance without juv. Justice. How do we engage with families that are leery of justice system? What are the resources across the state and how do we look at them so that they are more attractive for the sub-population that doesn’t see offerings as beneficial to them.

**TASK**: Melissa to add to Prevention subcommittee charge.

Robert Walsh – Look at trauma informed care in schools. Outcomes better when treatment is in schools. Law enforcement prevents acts but resolving trauma early prevents the prevention of acts. Melissa – Epi data on topic areas that kids face trauma – impact (bring data to next meeting). David Baker – universal interventions being created now that should be assessed. School – System Response to Trauma in schools – to share with group. Dave Barkhuff – there is no profile for a school shooter. One “hint” is a history of violence. Childhood exposure to violence.

**TASK**: Personality disorder v mental illness – need to give overview of difference – next meeting.

**Subcommittees**: Three Committees: Prevention, Response, Recovery. Melissa and Dan to develop charge and deliverables to present at next meeting. Suggested participants for Prevention are Melissa, Dr. Bell, PD, others, Response are Dan, PD, others, and Recovery are Rob Evans (Melissa to follow-up), Katherine or Danielle, others.

**TASK**: Follow-up with Rob re: Recovery subcommittee (Melissa)

**TASK**: Develop charge and deliverables for subcommittees (Melissa/Dan)

**Contributing factors**: Look out for behaviors more than risk factors. Across the lifespan, what are behaviors that could indicate pending violent act?

**Possible steps toward violent acts** – can we map past events?

**TASK**: Dan to follow-up

**What we know:** Matt V – Access to identification in early education.

Clarity from state on what tactic should be used in the field/school re: what needs to be done, what training is best. Shelter in place v run, hide, fight. Katherine – Community groups looking to school but no clarity with schools causes confusion on best practice. Rob Evans – Options to change from shelter in place to run, hide, fight – personal accountability

**TASK**: Rob to give a summary of the active shooter methodologies and why we are changing from shelter in place to Run, Hide, Fight. (sent)

Bill Bohnyak - Active Shooter drill in school. One teacher was resistant – not an option. Bring tactical gear into schools for education to simulate reality should there be an active shooter in the school. In Orange County – many unknowns, threat in school, intervened b4 gun was gained. The choice between the criminal justice or MH screening – screening was chosen and worked. Melissa - Why is there only one or the other? What if we had other options (anger management, social emotional skills development). Bill Bohnyak – do we need protocols for law enforcement re: criminal path or MH screening? Melissa – residual effects on potential victims while potential violent act is mitigated (fear, anxiety, ec). Dave Barkhuff – is there a middle ground between criminal and MH?

**TASK**: Melissa to add to Prevention subcommittee charge. Is there a middle ground/ “gap” facility?

**What we don’t know:**

Rob – limits of what information can be gathered (reports on media reports of suicide) – potential recommendations on how media reports. Data that supports copycat situations. Rob Evans: Sharing of information between law enforcement and mental health for a potential candidate for violent act? HIPAA/FRPA report – area to understand.

**TASK**: Need best practice re: encouraging clients to reach out. Melissa to add to Prevention subcommittee charge. Dr. Bell

**Other**: **TASK**: Melissa to send invite to the 9/26 Fall Community Education Series begins with "A Talk with Sue Klebold”

**TASK**: Melissa to add charge to Prevention subcommittee to hear report on effects of gaming.

**No Public Comments.**

**Updates, Final Thoughts:**

School Safety update: $4m to 206 schools for security. Public and private.

$1m homeland security – training, etc

Fed Grants – Hide, run, fight v say something do something

Behavior threat assessment, train the trainer. (send information or links to group)

PD – tipline – how to make students and teachers can make an anonymous tip? Teachers should be able to report and bypass mgmt

Heidi – nurse/family partnership, help me grow (211). For group, might be helpful to share people centered/stigma.

Student – where to help out/which group. Consider in planning. Grants for schools (k12).