

A Community-Based Approach to Safe Schools Planning

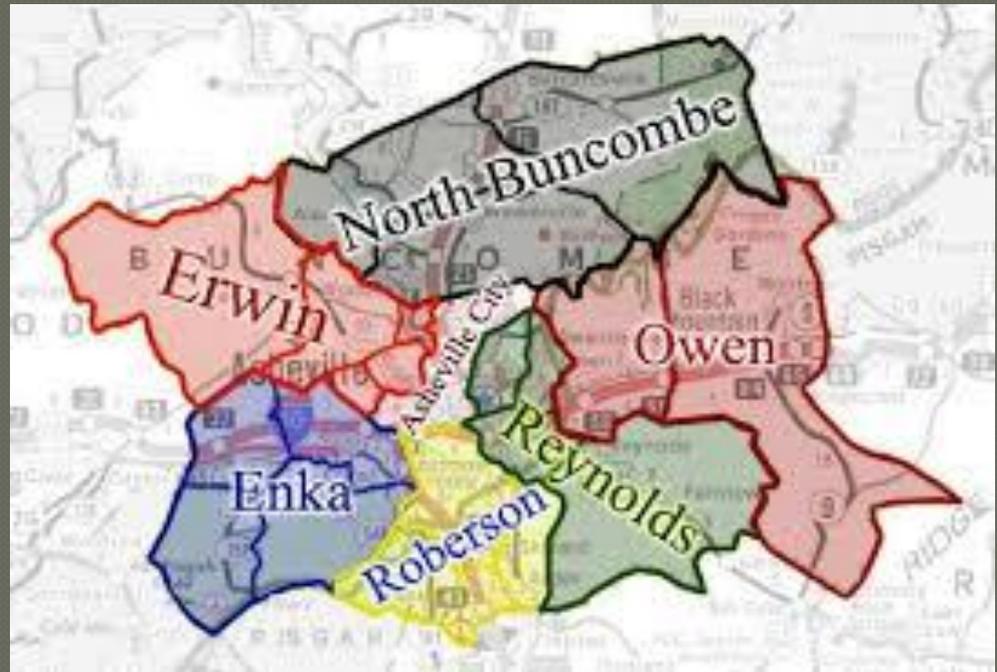
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Buncombe County Emergency
Management

Background

- Since 2004 – 2005 Buncombe County Emergency Services has worked closely with the Buncombe County Schools System in developing their system-wide Safe Schools Plan.
- Continuous Improvement Model

Background (cont'd)

- Buncombe County School System is divided into 6 High School Districts
- There is also a separate Asheville City School System



Background (cont'd)

Following the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, Buncombe County Schools convened a Safe Schools Task Force & charged them with the following tasks . . .



BCS Safe Schools Task Force Charged with

- Evaluate the existing BCS Safe Schools policies and procedures.
- Examine “best practices” of other school districts.
- Review existing resources within the school district & sheriff’s office.
- Consider any additional resources or recommendations that would improve our current plans.

One of the Recommendations

- Priority 4 – Collaboration: Synergy & Savings
 - Plan a yearly Safe Schools Community Forum/Conference.



2013 Buncombe County Safe Schools Symposium

- Planning committee recognized that the level of collaboration between public safety and school personnel at the BCS system level has been the key to the success of safe schools planning thus far.
- The level of collaboration varies in each of the 6 high school districts.
- Strengthen safe schools planning by sparking interdisciplinary safe schools collaboration in each district.

Planning the Event

- Bring emergency responders from each high school district together with the administration and/or crisis teams of those schools to:
 - Strengthen/establish relationships
 - Discuss unique planning considerations specific to their geographic area
 - Discuss each agencies role/priorities when responding to a school-based incident

Putting it all together

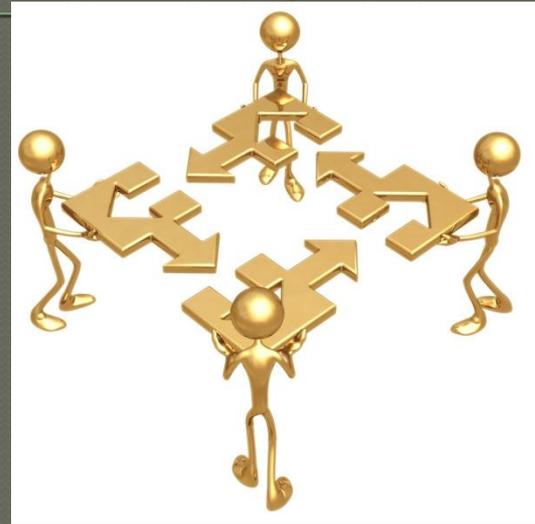
- ◉ Selecting a date/timeframe that would maximize attendance by school personnel
- ◉ If you feed them they will come
 - There was no budget for the event
 - Local food vendors contacted for donations
 - Breakfast – Sam's Club & United Foods
 - Lunch – Chick-fil-A



Putting it all together (cont'd)

- The program:

- Plenary sessions in the morning
 - Collaboration is the theme



- Breakout sessions after lunch by high school district
 - Allows school personnel and emergency responders from their district to discuss their safe schools planning priorities and concerns

The Event Becomes Regional

- Logical to include the Asheville City School System along with Private and Charter Schools within Buncombe County

The Event Becomes Regional (cont'd)

- Next step was to invite Henderson and Transylvania Counties as they were part of the Safe Schools Consortium during the initial planning grant
- From there quickly decided to invite all counties west of Buncombe.

SAFE SCHOOLS SYMPOSIUM

NOVEMBER 20, 2013 9am-2pm
BILTMORE BAPTIST CHURCH, ARDEN

- *PREPARATION*
- *COLLABORATION*
- *COMMUNICATION*

9:00 a.m. Welcome

Dr. Robbie Adell, Assistant Superintendent and Safe Schools Facilitator, Buncombe County Schools

Building Relationships: Schools & Law Enforcement

Dr. Tony Baldwin, Superintendent, Buncombe County Schools; Van Duncan, Sheriff, Buncombe County

Safe Schools Planning Initiatives at the State Level

Mike Sprayberry, NC Emergency Management Director

Communicating in a Crisis

Jan Blunt, Director of Communications, Buncombe County Schools

On the Ground: Prepare, Practice & Respond

Captain Robert Elliot, Guilford County

12:00 noon Lunch

1:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions:

City of Asheville: Room B214
Facilitator: Scott Burnette, AFD Chief

Enka District: Room B205
Facilitator: Deputy Norman Goering

Erwin District: Room B211
Facilitator: Lt. Randy Sorrells

North Buncombe District: Room B203
Facilitator: Sgt. Heather Welch

Owen District: Room B206
Facilitator: Kevin Pressley



Reynolds District: Room B210
Facilitator: Major Scott Bissinger

Roberson District: Room B204
Facilitator: Lt. Mike Ruby

WNC Communities: B208
Facilitator: Bob Washel

Recovery Specialists: Sanctuary
Facilitator: David Thompson
(School nurses, counselors, health professionals)

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

Facilities: Biltmore Baptist Church
Refreshments: Chick-fil-A (Lunch),
United Foods (Breakfast), Pepsi, Sam's Club
Sisters of Mercy: Safe School Team Laneyards

Safe Schools Symposium Planning Committee:
Dr. Robbie Adell, Paula Garland, Dr. Monty Fuchs, Dr. Sherry Baldwin, Jan Blunt, David Thompson, Lt. Mike Ruby, Kevin Pressley, Angie Ledford, Jason Rhodes



Breakout Session Questions

1. What is your biggest fear from a school safety standpoint?
2. Would you be prepared if that happened? What do we have in place that helps us to be prepared and where do we go from here?



Breakout Session Questions

(cont'd)

3. What are the top 5 priorities of each agency responding to a school during a crisis situation?



4. What is unique, geographically in and around your schools?



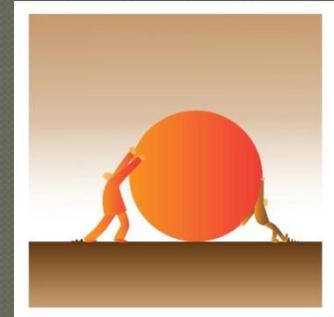
Breakout Session Questions (cont'd)

5. What can we do to create/build relationships and collaborate in order to have a continuous improvement concept?



Breakout Session Questions (cont'd)

6. What do you perceive as the biggest obstacle you will face in your School/District?



6. How do we involve parents in preparing what their role is?



Attendance

- 215 Attendees
- 49 Agencies
- 7 Disciplines



Attendance Breakdown

- 8 School Systems

- Asheville City
- Buncombe County
- Cherokee County
- Graham County
- Haywood County
- Henderson County
- Swain County
- Transylvania County

- 1 Charter School

- Art Space Charter

- 1 Private School

- North Asheville Christian

Attendance Breakdown (cont'd)

○ 15 Fire Departments

- **Asheville**
- **Barnardsville**
- **Black Mountain**
- **Enka/Candler**
- **Fairview**
- **Jupiter**
- **Leicester**
- **Reems Creek**
- **Reynolds**
- **Skyland**
- **Swannanoa**
- **Upper Hominy**
- **Weaverville**
- **West Buncombe**
- **Woodfin**

Attendance Breakdown (cont'd)

- 8 Law Enforcement Agencies

- Asheville PD
- Black Mountain PD
- Buncombe Co. Sheriff
- Graham Co. Sheriff
- Henderson Co. Sheriff
- Murphy PD
- Swain Co. Sheriff
- Transylvania Co. Sheriff

- 5 Local EM Agencies

- Buncombe County
- Cherokee County
- Graham County
- Jackson County
- Swain County

- 1 EMS System

- Buncombe County

Attendance Breakdown (cont'd)

- 3 State Agencies

- **NCEM**
- **Highway Patrol**
- **Juvenile Justice**

- 3 Healthcare Agencies

- **Buncombe Co HHS – School Health**
- **Mission Hospitals**
- **Sister's of Mercy Urgent Care**

- 4 Mental Health Agencies

- **Access Family Services**
- **Family Preservation Services**
- **RHA Health Services**
- **Universal Mental Health**

Outcomes

- Putting names with faces.
- Several districts scheduled future meetings for their breakout groups (first step in creating district-level Safe Schools Committees).
- Fire Departments more engaged in Safe Schools Planning.

Outcomes (cont'd)

- ⦿ Communications issue identified and solution developed.