

Governor's Statewide School Safety Training Conference

11/20/2013

- Thanks to everyone for being here – administrators, first responders, law enforcement, school crisis planning teams, the State Crisis Planning Team, legislators, representatives from the federal delegation and Chief Justice Rieber.
- Thank Agency of Education (Secretary Vilaseca and Barbara Crippen) and Department of Public Safety (Commissioner Flynn and Captain Rob Evans) for coordinating to organize the day.
- Why coordination and statewide safety collaboration is important?
 - You all are out in the field in your communities every day and know what works best. This is a great opportunity for you to learn from each other on what is most effective.
 - Preparedness is the best defense.
 - Tragedies elsewhere have brought home the importance of not taking safety for granted and need to ensure good training and preparation.
 - In the Vermont tradition, students are at the center of this work. They need us to prepare and think about their safety on their behalf so they can focus on learning how to solve the problems of the 21st century.
- We are lucky in Vermont to be small enough to be nimble and work together closely in our communities, and yet have access to world-class expertise.
- Gary Margolis (who you heard from this morning) and Steven Healy are national experts in educational safety and security and recently received a \$2.3 million grant to create the National Center for Campus Public Safety in Burlington in coordination with UVM.
- We are proud of this work that is happening in VT and look forward to continuing to partner with our in-state experts and higher education institutions on school safety.

Background:

\$2.3 million grant that Margolis Healy and Associates received in Sept (didn't get any much press at the time):

- In September of this year, the U.S. Department of Justice has awarded a \$2.3 million grant to Margolis Healy & Associates to establish a new National Center for Campus Public Safety, to be based in Burlington, VT in partnership with UVM
- Margolis Healy is a national consulting firm specializing in educational safety and security, headed by former UVM Police Chief Gary J. Margolis and Steven J. Healy, former Director of Public Safety at Princeton University.
- The National Center will serve the safety and security needs of higher education throughout the United States. The National Center was chartered by Congress earlier this year with bipartisan support, in the wake of recent school tragedies.
- The National Center will serve as a think tank and clearinghouse for the identification and dissemination of information, research, training and promising practices and emerging issues in campus public safety, according to federal officials. The Center will identify and examine emerging risks to campus safety and security, and develop resources to combat those risks and facilitate the transfer of research to practice.

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GOVERNOR'S STATEWIDE SCHOOL SAFETY TRAINING CONFERENCE

Nov. 20 at the Sheraton Conference Center, Burlington

Gov. Peter Shumlin is kicking off a day-long Statewide School Safety Conference on Wednesday, Nov. 20, as an essential training event for nearly 300 members of local school crisis teams, as well as administrators and first responders trying to put together safety protocols.

The conference, which includes an 11 a.m. speech by the Governor at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, is intended as an overview of school safety issues and crisis response by experts in the field. This is the first step in a coordinated statewide safety planning effort that focuses on prevention, and reflects the most recent views of law enforcement experts on safety planning

Dr. Gary Margolis, a nationally recognized expert who co-founded Margolis-Healy and Associates (a professional services firm specializing in campus safety and security for higher education and K-12 schools) will provide the keynote; Jeffrey Nolan will present an overview of threat assessment and crisis team building; and specific workshops will be held on school safety issues by members of the Vermont School Crisis Planning Team. In addition, the Montpelier School District crisis team will present a simulated crisis exercise.

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AGENDA

- 8:45 AM Welcome: Agency of Education Secretary Vilaseca and
Department of Public Safety Commissioner Flynn (Emerald Ballroom)
- 9:00-9:45 AM Keynote Speech: Dr. Gary Margolis (Emerald Ballroom)
9:45-10:00 AM Break
- 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Overview of School Threat Assessment: Building a Program and a
Process: Jeff Nolan, Esq. (Emerald Ballroom)
- Remarks: Governor Peter Shumlin (Emerald Ballroom)
- 12:00-1:00 PM Buffet Lunch (Emerald Ballroom)
- 1:15-2:15 PM Concurrent Breakout Workshops
- A. Creating a School Public Safety Committee, Presenters:
Leo Nadeau, Mark Moody and Steve Earley (Diamond II)
 - B. How Law Enforcement Responds to Crises, Presenter:
Captain Rob Evans (Emerald I)
 - C. The School Administrator's Perspective, Presenters: Brian Ricca, Eric
Bushey and Winton Goodrich (Emerald III)
 - D. School Safety Planning: A Proactive Mental Health Perspective,
Presenter: Pat Messerle (Emerald II)
 - E. Physical Security Issues and Timely Response, Presenters:
Gabe Palazzi and Lyall Smith (Diamond I)
- 2:15-2:30 PM Break
- 2:30-3:30 PM Sample Crisis Simulation with the Montpelier School District Team:
Tony Facos, Matthew Knisley, Mark Moody, Robert Gowans,
Welker Taylor, Pamela Arnold, Adam Bunting and Brian Ricca
(Emerald Ballroom)
- 3:45-4:30 PM Panel: Questions and Answers Discussion (Emerald Ballroom)