

Bullying Task Force Notes: March 19, 2012

Members Present: Willie Bridges, Curt Carpenter, Brenda Cassellius, Vangie Castro, Jim Davnie, Scott Dibble, Philip Duran, Julie Hertzog, Kevin Lindsey, Mary Mackbee, Lyn Mitchel, Jacob Reitan, Walter Roberts, Thomas Scott (Via phone), Kelly Smith,

Absent: Tim Kelly, Ted Daley, Alana Friedman, Kirk Schneidawind.

A. Welcome and Introductions

- Introductions, review of the packet
- Legislators and commissioners are equal members to the other taskforce members.
- Comments from MDE Commissioner Brenda Cassellius.
- Taskforce needs to select chair and co-chair. Staff will assist the chair in establishing the agenda. Co-chairs will run the meeting.
- Meeting schedule listed; other possible dates can be scheduled.
- Ex-officio members are non-voting, for advice and input.

B. Executive Order

Details of Executive Order were reviewed.

C. SWOT: strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats

Committee members went through an exercise to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats in the work ahead of them.

E. Election of co-chair: Walter Roberts and Julie Hertzog

F. Review of State Laws and Regulations: A brief review of state statutes on bullying, harassment and intimidation and a review of state and federal policies was presented.

- Supporting materials are available to the taskforce. MSBA policies are copyrighted.
- Questions about: What would be the policy definition for bullying?
- Question raised about using M.S.127A.42 sub 26: Withholding funds from districts that are not in compliance with the human rights act except for sexual orientation.
- Important that we address students bullied by adults.

G. Presentation on State Model Policy on Violence

Prevention Model policies can flow from legislative direction.

Some are at MSBA and some at MDE.

MDE model policy has recently been revised based on federal input. (Dear Colleague, model policies/reporting form in next meeting.)

MDE model policy walk through.

- Citations and definitions of terms.
- Applicability provisions.
- School district action p. 9, section 8 includes but is not limited to...(listing)

- On MDE website harassment, hazing (121A.69).
- Other states' policies sometimes include bullying and harassment.
- Model policies – responsibility is local school boards.
- Discussion
 - MN has been reluctant to take on the bigger issues – took on pieces; that's why all the legislation exists (needs consolidation).

Hazing needs to be on our list to understand and where it fits.

H. Ideas and Resources for future meetings

- Testimony, research critical topics.
- Go outstate for meetings: timing? Before school is out? Public meeting in the evening to share your stories and recommendations.
 - Perhaps break up to do the meetings.
 - Have media.
- Strategize for prioritization: examples of policy, local experts, people from University.
- How much data is available and associated health conditions.
- Literature from psychology, pediatrics, etc.
- Email-- information on cyber bullying.
- Data from schools on what the schools are doing—survey of the elementary and secondary school boards.
- What are SEA's doing for bullying prevention: SSCCO, NGA (Nancy, check).

Experts on Critical Topics: Dr. Bridget Briggs, Mayo; Marlene Snyder, student voices, (how do we respond to issues of public safety concerns) task force members (Vangie, Julie, Walter), applicants; Nancy Riestenberg, the public, role of county attorneys, GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Educators Network); cyberbullying, (PACER has a contact with Facebook to talk about cyberbullying, Dave Steer Family on line safety Institute). Stuart Green, Justin Patchin. Someone to talk about PSA's; the ad council, Jamie Nabozny; expert panel (for a good use of time), Dr. Susan Strauss, evidence based practices.

- Someone on student rights.
- Peer education and intervention.
- Meet with the Governor.
- Nobody paid attention to the issue, until there is money. Still the question is effectiveness. The research is uncertain.
- Set dates for meetings with youth.

Next meeting: Ways to set up the work so that is inclusive of all groups. Use of subcommittees.

- Is there financial help of work? Who? How to apply? For what purpose? Experts, research, writing.
- The OCR settlements in Anoka, Owatonna and Red Wing(?)