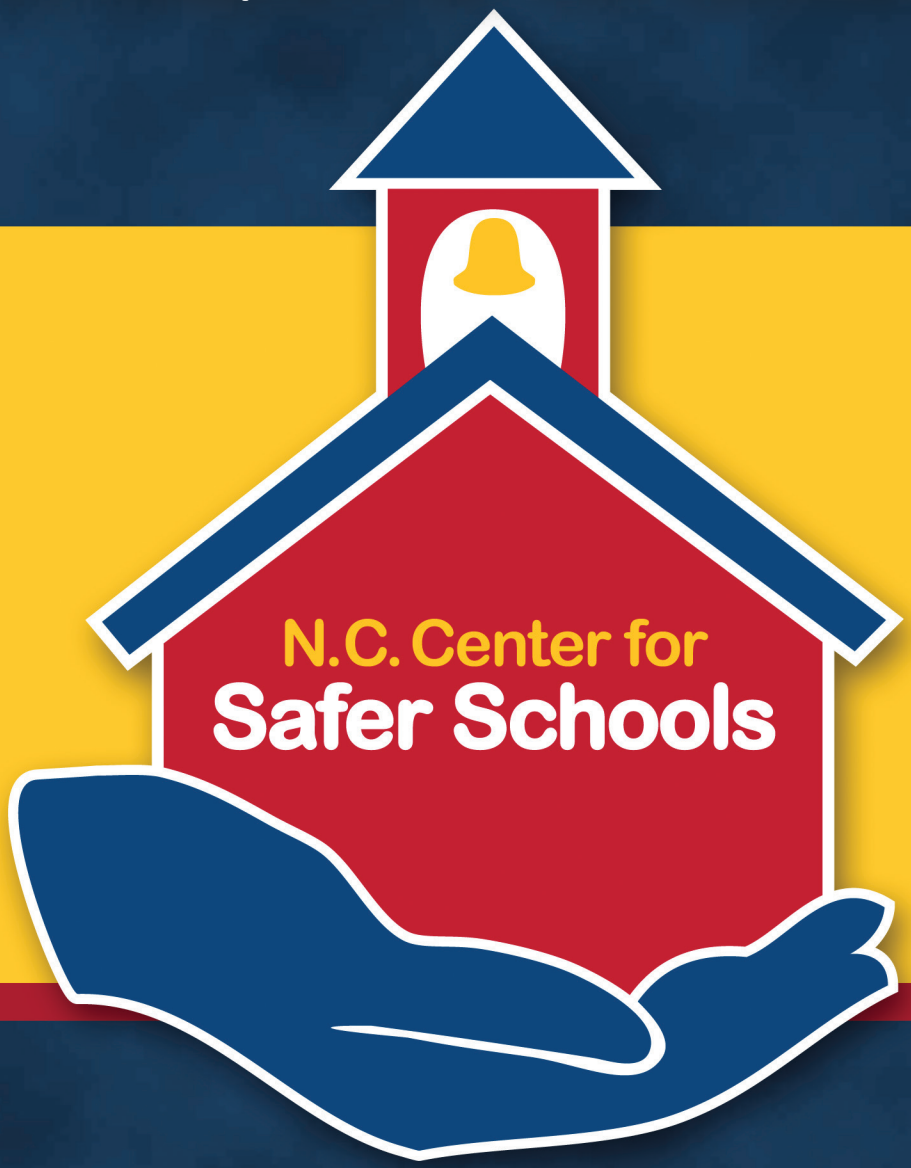
N.C. Center for Safer Schools 2015 Report to the Governor



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
PREVENT. PROTECT. PREPARE

N.C. Center for Safer Schools

Mission Statement

Serve as a customer-focused information center for research, training and technical assistance related to school safety, crisis prevention and response to work effectively and efficiently with federal, state, local and community-based organizations with the ultimate goal of safer schools in North Carolina.

Vision Statement

All schools in the state are safe, secure and offer an environment conducive to learning.

Executive Summary

The North Carolina Center for Safer Schools was established by Gov. Pat McCrory in March 2013. The Center's work is aimed toward the goal that all schools in the state are safe, secure and offer an environment conducive to learning. Information gleaned from the Center's "Safer Schools Forums" held across the state found that schools did not have the resources and tools needed to best respond to every need and situation. The needs ranged from insufficient numbers of personnel, to physical security upgrades or improvements, and/or challenges with communication and staff training, among other issues. For the last three years, the Center has worked to meet these needs by facilitating collaborations through state agencies; convening and supporting its advisory board – the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools; filling gaps in research, training and information-sharing; and seeking grant and legislative support to increase support personnel at schools and enhance school safety planning.

This report focuses on accomplishments to date of the N.C. Center for Safer Schools, the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools and its partnering agencies, with particular focus on the third year of implementation.

Year One

The N.C. Center for Safer Schools assumed the responsibility for reaching out to nine locations across the state and conducting nine multi-staged forums. The Center collaborated with key partners during the process, including the departments of Health and Human Services, Justice and Public Instruction, as well as other groups. Information gained from the forums, which included system gaps as well as best practices and innovative approaches, was combined with a literature review to bolster the knowledge base and strengthen the findings. The resulting product was the first Report to the Governor by the N.C. Center for Safer Schools, which was presented to Gov. McCrory at Hoggard High School in Wilmington in September 2013.

Gov. McCrory established the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools through Executive Order No. 25. The group was tasked with providing guidance to the N.C. Center for Safer Schools and considering future policy and legislative actions needed to improve school safety in North Carolina. The multidisciplinary advisory board is comprised of stakeholders including parents, students, teachers, principals, school resource officers, social workers, law enforcement officers, juvenile justice and mental health professionals, and leadership from key partnering agencies.

Year Two

The N.C. Center for Safer Schools, at the request of the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, developed a new "Critical Incident Response For School Faculty and Staff" video and accompanying training manual. The purpose of the training was to standardize and educate school faculty and staff on how to best respond in a school shooter or other multi-hazard emergency incident.

The Department of Public Instruction coordinated the Center's training on this topic in Local Education Agencies statewide. The training is being incorporated into the Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET).

N.C. Emergency Management within the Department of Public Safety has developed a two-part web-based portal for schools and first responders to use in formulating maps and schematics and school emergency plans. For schools, this provides a standardized method for identifying key elements of their school safety plans, and for first responders a secure web page that provides rapid access to key information regarding school buildings and relocation points used in the event of a critical or multi-hazard incident.

The Department of Health and Human Services facilitated the expansion of Mental Health First-Aid for Youth training that educates teachers, parents and other service providers of the impact mental health challenges play in the behavior patterns of youth in our schools.

The N.C. Justice Academy prioritized training for school resource officers (SROs), scheduling several course deliveries ranging from one to five days in length. Several of these classes were offered during summer months.

The Department of Public Instruction worked with Center for Safer Schools staff and other development team members to develop online modules for teachers and other school support staff. These modules included Understanding Student Behavior in the Classroom, and Understanding the Role of School Resource Officers in Schools.

The Center for Safer Schools completed an original research study entitled 2015 North Carolina School Resource Officer Census. The purpose of the study was to gain a better understanding of SROs in North Carolina by giving them a vehicle with which to provide their input. The census provided a baseline of demographic information as well as a representation of what SROs need to be effective. This information has helped the Center focus its efforts for school resource officers.

Year Three

This report focuses on the Year Three accomplishments of the N.C. Center for Safer Schools, its partnering agencies and the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools toward ensuring that all schools in the state are safe, secure and offer an environment conducive to learning. During year three, most of the work focused on continued support to schools in preparing for critical and multi-hazard incidents; providing training and support to school resource officers, and to teachers and other support staff through the use of modules; and pulling together the various school safety mechanisms to create the School Risk and Response Management System (SRRMS). A new emphasis was on engaging students to support safety practices at their schools through development of an anonymous reporting app for students.

Center and Task Force Backgrounds

Gov. McCrory opened the North Carolina Center for Safer Schools (CFSS) in March 2013. The Governor charged the Center with ensuring that mental health concerns are incorporated in all school safety initiatives, and encouraging state agencies to collaborate and combine their efforts to provide school safety resources and initiatives in North Carolina. The Center is uniquely positioned to identify and foster collaboration between many disparate agencies and individuals to promote issues related to school safety. Through work with its advisory board – the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools – the Center has been able to involve specialists from all levels across the state in the work of the Task Force and Center. Center staff have looked for gaps in the service system to determine where best to expend their efforts, and have collaborated with partnering agencies on joint projects.

The CFSS is currently staffed by an Executive Director, Deputy Director and a Grants and Research Coordinator. They provide staff assistance to the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools, and with their diverse knowledge and backgrounds guide the CFSS in its activities. The Center staffing will soon be augmented by a School Safety Specialist and a School Safety Analyst.

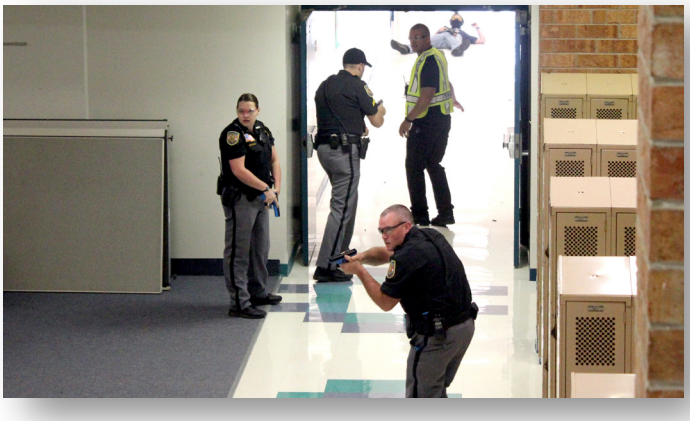
Since presenting the 2014 Report to the Governor, the Center for Safer Schools has been actively seeking to both complete actionable items as proposed by the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools and Center staff and to listen, learn and collaborate with its partners to help complete tasks and formulate new ideas. Though the Center is currently understaffed, its existing staff continues to reach high to generate results. The Center's accomplishments of the past 12 months include:

1. Anonymous Reporting App for Students. Through a grant from the Governor's Crime Commission, assistance from Emergency Management's Homeland Security grants, and Center for Safer Schools budget contributions, a contract has been entered into for the develop and implementation of an application for smart devices (smartphones, tablets and computers) to be piloted in five school systems (Lenoir, Johnston, Macon, Anson, and Winston-Salem/Forsyth).
   This app will allow students (through the app) to send anonymous information by text, along with images, voice recordings and social media posts.
   This information will be sent to the students' schools. When received at the school, the tips will be routed to the appropriate personnel to both investigate the tips and in some cases review and oversee the process of managing the incoming information (principals, school resource officers, counselors, administrative staff and others).
   The app also provides direct telephone access to a 24-hour suicide hotline with calls received and processed by trained mental health counselors.

2. Student Advisory Committee to the N.C. Center for Safer Schools. This committee is composed of middle and high school students from across the state and has met twice in Raleigh. The committee is chaired by Luke Stancil, former student appointee to the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools. The committee serves as a student-driven discussion group that focuses on the development of a marketing plan to encourage the use of the anonymous reporting app for students. It also encourages student engagement and involvement in making their schools safer places through education about school safety-related issues. Some goals of the committee include producing short videos promoting the student app; establishing relationships and coordination with existing student groups to share information about the student app and school safety education; and exploring web-based communication as a venue for sharing information with students.

3. Critical Incidents on School Buses Video. The Center worked with the N.C. State Highway Patrol and RSM Consulting to develop a video to illustrate prudent actions and reactions for school bus drivers in the event of several critical incident and multi-hazard scenarios. The Center focuses on the philosophy that training and preparation are the best tools to produce positive outcomes in the event of critical incidents.

4. School Violence Prevention and Response Symposiums. The Center collaborated with the N.C. Justice Academy and the Department of Health and Human Services to hold six forums across the state for law enforcement agencies, first responders, mental health providers, school resource officers, school administrators and other stakeholders in making our schools safer for children. The Justice Academy coordinated registration and training for the symposiums. This partnership touched on supporting mental health in schools, reducing bullying, critical incident response in schools, roles of and training for school resource officers, and hostage and barricaded situations in schools.



5. Safer Schools and Communities Forum in Kinston. The Governor's Office asked the Center to work with the mayor and other key stakeholders in Kinston on developing strategies for safer schools and communities. The goal was to bring together citizens, parents and leaders to discuss strategies for reducing violence among the school-age population. The forum was one of a series of community meetings held in Kinston, and included a presentation on "Bullying and Gang Prevention" and a keynote address from former NFL player and Kinston native Reverend Lin Dawson. This is an example of the Center's community outreach and collaboration efforts.

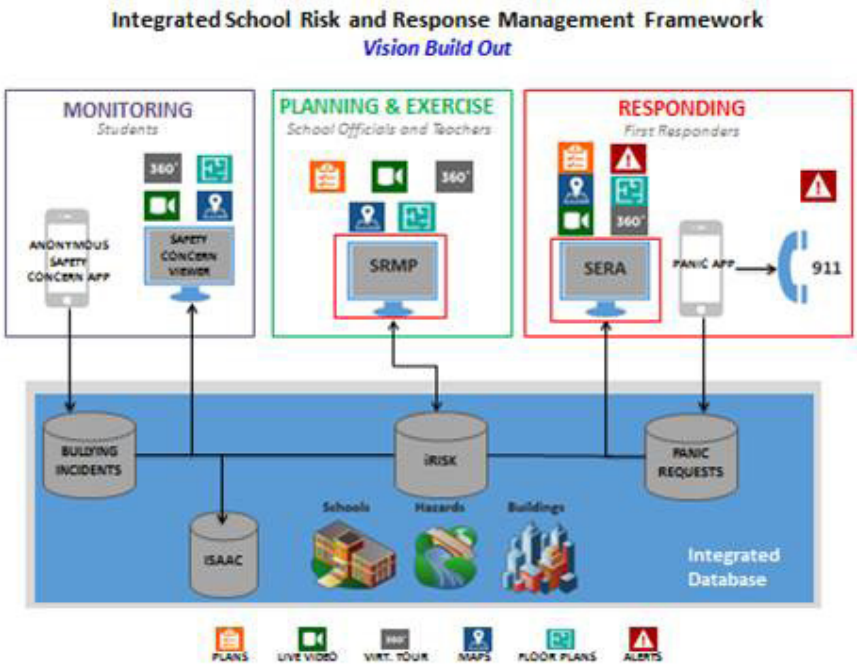
6. Critical Incident Response for School Faculty and Staff training. The Center completed statewide training of Critical Incident Response for School Faculty and Staff with at least one training to all 115 Local Education Agencies (school districts). This video and accompanying training manual have been accepted and promoted as the standard for schools in North Carolina by the Department of Public Instruction. Expansion of training continues for charter schools, private schools and (with adaptation) use in community colleges and universities.

7. Crisis Intervention Techniques (CIT) for Youth (CIT-Y). A grant was obtained to develop training protocols for any CIT trainers seeking information on developing courses based on how youth mental and emotional health issues may present differently than adult issues. A committee of noted authorities in the areas of CIT, youth mental health and law enforcement training was convened to develop this training information, slated to be completed by January 2016. Initially, this program will be a short one or two-day booster training for SROs that have previously completed CIT training. The objective behind this program is that through providing SROs and other officers with a better understanding of youth development, mental health issues and alternative community resources, fewer youths will be directed to the justice system, thus reducing the "school-to-prison pipeline."

8. School Risk and Response Management System (SRRMS). The SRRMS system combines the efforts of N.C. Emergency Management with the Center for Safer Schools toward monitoring, planning & exercise and responding to school safety concerns in schools.
   On the monitoring side, students and parents will be able to send anonymous safety tips to personnel at schools who will investigate and provide feedback. School Safety Analysts located at the FUSION Center will monitor school social media postings for evidence of school safety risks and report to the Center for Safer Schools.

For planning and exercise, building maps and schematics will be acquired from each school in the state.This process is nearly complete, with only one school district not in the system. Then a first-generation School Emergency Plan that is digitally generated and maintained within the system will be developed for all 2,700 school facilities. Staff will assist schools with tabletop exercises and drills to practice and test their school emergency plans. The plans will include response to natural hazards, man-made hazards and threats on school property.

The last part of the system, or response, will enable school administrators and personnel, law enforcement, dispatch personnel, first responders and emergency managers to have access to information digitally for response to safety concerns on school campuses. The N.C. Emergency Management and the Center for Safer Schools will collaborate with the Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina 911 Board in the design, implementation and maintenance of SRRMS.



Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools Background and Accomplishments

The Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools was established through Executive Order 25 in September 2013 and was tasked with providing guidance to the N.C. Center for Safer Schools and considering future policy and legislative action needed to improve school safety in North Carolina. Appointments to the Task Force were completed in October with the purpose of creating a multidisciplinary advisory board comprised of stakeholders including parents, students, teachers, school administrators, law enforcement officers, juvenile justice professionals and mental health professionals. The Task Force on Safer Schools supports the Center's mission through three working subcommittees that draw on the expertise of people with varying subject area knowledge to develop ideas, legislative and policy-related proposals, and promote school safety initiatives within their communities. The subcommittees are led by task force members with expertise in the subject matter pertinent to the overall mission of the group, and include other members of the task force and various subject matter experts from both community and state perspectives.

The three subcommittees of the Task Force are:

- **School Climate and Discipline.**

Feeling safe at school not only encompasses physical safety, but social and emotional safety as well. This committee looks at how schools create positive school climates where students feel safe, have positive relationships and where high academic achievement is the norm. Creating these positive, safe school climates requires fostering positive behavior; establishing norms and values that support people feeling socially, emotionally and physically safe; and minimizing threats of bullying and violence. The following are recommendations for fostering positive school climates that the subcommittee will address:

- Providing technical assistance on how to foster a positive school climate
- Establishing anonymous reporting systems for reporting school safety concerns for schools statewide
- Continuing to educate local schools and school systems regarding the harmful impacts of bullying
- Encouraging schools to put in place more alternatives to suspension

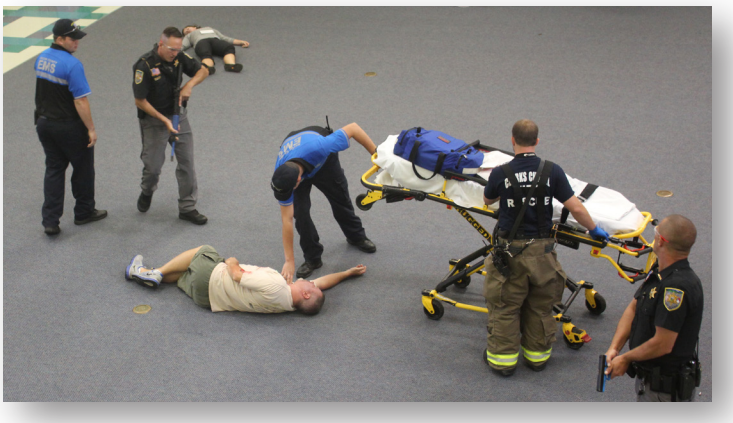
- **Mental Health and Special Needs of Students.**

The Center for Safer Schools is taking a holistic approach toward addressing school safety. Most human-caused safety concerns such as shootings, bomb threats, fights/riots and other forms of violence are caused by members of the school population rather than unknown external threats. For this reason, the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools and the N.C. Center for Safer Schools takes an in-depth look at how schools and communities can address the mental health needs of their students and staff to prevent school related violent incidents. The following are recommendations pertaining to mental health that this subcommittee will address:

- Working with local communities to create innovative strategies for integrating behavioral health and substance abuse services on school campuses or nearby
- Increasing resources for Crisis Intervention Team training (CIT)—effective and early identification of problem behaviors can lead to more successful and long-lasting results when dealing with students and their families
- Developing and maintaining additional resources to ensure access and training on Youth Mental Health First Aid

- **Physical Security and Emergency Preparedness.**

Schools are soft targets because of their openness to the public, but with a few often inexpensive modifications, schools can make their environments a harder target. Low-cost security measures for school facilities should be implemented by all schools, including those that highlight the concepts of crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED). Some of these measures include access control, natural and formal surveillance and having well-defined school boundaries. School faculty and staff, law enforcement, dispatch personnel, first responders and emergency managers should be provided with up-to-date training and tools to assist with response to natural hazards, man-made hazards and threats on school property and students and faculty. Other physical security and emergency preparedness recommendations that this subcommittee will address include:



- Hiring and updating the training curriculum for school resource officers
- Encouraging school districts to utilize the safe school facility planner when building new schools or renovating existing schools
- Encourage state and local law enforcement to have higher visibility around school campuses
- Assist local school districts and local emergency management offices with web-based emergency planning and drills
- Require that schools have a school risk management plan and hold annual school-wide tabletop exercises and drills

- **Substance Abuse and Gang Intervention.**

A fourth subcommittee to review the issues of substance abuse, underage alcohol consumption and gang involvement in schools was established at the June 2015 Task Force meeting and will begin their work in fiscal year 2015-2016. They will look at the issues surrounding substance abuse, underage drinking and gangs both as separate and interrelated areas.

Task Force Accomplishments

School Climate and Discipline Subcommittee

The committee continues to work on research related to bullying, discipline and school climate. Detailed analysis of these points will be completed during the next two calendar quarters. The goal is to complete recommendations on these items prior to the 2016 Session of the N.C. General Assembly.

Mental Health and Students with Special Needs Subcommittee

The Mental Health Subcommittee of the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools has been actively involved in developing a five-year plan to bring a level of standardization and best practices for both faculty and mental health providers in schools. This includes a standardized suicide screening tool that in a few questions can help determine the urgency of a threat or concern. Additionally, a violence risk screening and assessment tool is being investigated as a potential for a grant. The committee's ultimate goal is to equip schools with an identifying, screening and access-to-care framework adaptable to each unique environment. Earlier in the year several committee members developed a webinar training, 'Engaging Schools into Juvenile Justice Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Teams' through the Center for Youth, Family and Community Partnerships. The committee gave input into the Center's student anonymous tip reporting app related to how to process suicide tips, and hosted a presentation on an Early Intervention Truancy Program for the Governor's Task Force. Lastly, the committee positioned several members on two other state department-led task forces dedicated to children's mental health needs so we are able to better collaborate on projects.

Physical Security and Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee

The Physical Security and Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee has been hard at work for the past year continuing to support the Critical Incident Response for School Faculty and Staff curriculum as well as developing new curriculum for Critical Incidents on School Buses. This group began discussions on how to better support the school systems in their endeavors to meet the new statutory requirement for performing emergency drills (including active shooter drills) and tabletop exercises once per year in each school. The committee has also provided suggestions for updating the SRO curriculum with the N.C. Justice Academy.

North Carolina Center for Safer Schools
Accomplishments of the Center and Collaborating Partners

Through the united efforts of the Center for Safer Schools, the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools and the collaboration with partnering agencies, broader acceptance of school safety measures exists among the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and their schools. Below are the many school safety-related accomplishments of the Center for Safer Schools and our partnering agencies from July 2014 - June 2015. Many programs are one-time events, some are in varying points of development and some are continuous or ongoing.

Governor's Office

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Gov. Pat McCrory proclaims October Bullying Awareness and Prevention Month in North Carolina	Bullying impacts students across the state; recent research shows that in North Carolina, 20 percent of high school students report being bullied in the past 12 months. Nearly 60 percent of N.C. high school students have witnessed bullying in their schools during the same time period. Additionally, bullying via social media or other electronic means – or cyber bullying – is also present. In 2013, 13 percent of N.C. high school students reported being the victims of some form of electronic bullying over the past 12 months. North Carolina joined other states and communities in proclaiming October as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Month.	**Complete**
Governor McCrory recognizes Safe Schools Week	Governor Pat McCrory has asked North Carolina education, law enforcement, mental health, government and business leaders to work together with the North Carolina Center for Safer Schools to focus the public's attention on methods to ensure all state schools are safe as Safe Schools Week is observed this week, Oct. 19-25, 2014. "The N.C. Center for Safer Schools has recently updated me on the progress it has made over the past year in partnership with state and local agencies, schools and communities to ensure our children are kept safe while they are learning," Governor McCrory said. "As we observe Safe Schools Week, I encourage all North Carolinians to become active in your children's lives and in their schools, and learn how you can help keep our schools safe and secure."	**Complete**

General Assembly

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
House Bill 380	The two main purposes for this legislation are to make conforming changes to previous school safety legislation, and to implement a School Risk and Response Management Plan (SRRMS). The conforming changes include requiring that each school hold an annual school-wide tabletop exercise and drill, including a practice school lockdown due to an intruder on school grounds. Each Local Education Agency is required to work with local law enforcement and emergency management agencies to adopt a School Risk Management Plan by March 1, 2017. And the Department of Public Safety shall construct and maintain a School Risk and Response Management System (SRRMS) in collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction and the NC 911 Board. The SRRMS will consist of the Anonymous Reporting App for Students, the School Risk Management Plan for planning and exercises, and the School Emergency Response Application for first responders. The response side shall include a statewide panic alarm system for the purposes of launching real-time 911 messaging to public safety answering points. The Anonymous Tip Line for Students and the panic alarm system will be implemented statewide by the end of the 2016-17 school year.	**Ongoing**

Department of Public Safety
N.C. Center for Safer Schools (CFSS)

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Critical Incidents In Schools Training Video	As part of the Center's ongoing efforts to ensure that schools are prepared in the event of any critical incident, the CFSS continues to train on and offer its Critical Incident Response for School Faculty and Staff video training. This video has now been supported as the standard for critical incident response training in North Carolina's public schools by the Department of Public Instruction, and has been incorporated as part of the Basic Law Enforcement Training curriculum. The Center is now providing training for charter and private schools. Adaptations in training for community colleges and universities are also being worked on.	**Ongoing**

Department of Public Safety
N.C. Center for Safer Schools (CFSS)

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Critical Incidents on School Buses Video	Following the success of the Critical Incident Response In Schools Training Video, the NC Highway Patrol sought assistance from CFSS in developing a video training for school bus drivers with the goal of helping these drivers with planned responses to several types of incidents, including natural and man-made hazards. The theme in this training is to ensure that drivers are aware of their surroundings and react to incidents in methods that will place a premium on the safety of children on school buses.	**Ongoing**
Symposiums on School Violence Prevention and Mental Health Issues on Campuses	Through collaborative efforts of the N.C. Justice Academy, N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services and the Center for Safer Schools, a series of symposia were produced in five communities to discuss bullying prevention, active shooters, mental health issues on school campuses and emergency response for SROs. The Symposia on Active Shooter Trends and School Violence Prevention were held in Wilmington, Salemburg, Davidson, Asheville and Franklin.	**Complete**
Spk-Up NC, a smart device application for students to anonymously report concerning and unlawful activities to their school administration and school Resource officer. Branded in the app stores as: SPKUP NC	Through a grant from the Governor's Crime Commission, assistance from Emergency Management and Center for Safer Schools budget contributions, a contract has been entered into to pilot an application for smart devices (smart phones, tablets, and computers) in five school systems (Lenoir, Johnston, Macon, Avery, and Winston-Salem/Forsyth). This app will allow students the peace of mind to know they can anonymously report incidents and information on incidents to selected school authorities (principals, school resource officers, counselors and others) without fear of reprisals. The students can report concerns about fellow students who may not be able to speak up for themselves, and be assured that school staff will investigate their tip and act on it if warranted. The app also provides direct telephone access to a 24-hour suicide hotline with trained counselors.	**Ongoing**
School Resource Officer (SRO) Census	The Center research staff completed a census review of basic SRO demographics, training levels and needs assessment. The report was conducted not to solve any particular problem, but rather to obtain some baseline information to help us better understand the officers that make up the state's SRO workforce and to determine training and security needs for these officers. The report can be viewed at: www.ncdps.gov/div/JJ/final%20SRO%20CENSUS%202015%20final.pdf	**Complete**

North Carolina Highway Patrol

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Operation Drive to Live 2015	The Highway Patrol has conducted "Operation Drive to Live" for approximately nine years, always focusing efforts around the prom season. Troopers are proactive in providing educational presentations to high schools throughout the state, concentrating on teen driving initiatives. Beyond the educational piece, enforcement efforts increased throughout the week of April 20, 2015, in and around school zones statewide. Although the Highway Patrol concentrates on school zones throughout the entire school year, this weeklong campaign allows them to increase their efforts toward saving teenage lives. The Patrol has also implemented a new "state-of-the-art" driving simulator. The simulator is used across the state to provide teen drivers an educational opportunity through a hands-on approach. The students will experience driving simulations that provide them with decision-making tasks, evasive action maneuvers, distracted-driving scenarios and speed monitoring practices.	**Ongoing**
Encourage law enforcement officers to maintain high visibility around schools	The N.C. Highway Patrol routinely stops at schools to complete paperwork, eat lunch, conduct appropriate business and offer an effective visual deterrent to criminal activities. In conjunction with this project, members of the State Highway Patrol conducted 7,188 school safety stops during the 2014-2015 school year.	**Ongoing**

Juvenile Justice

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Empower local youth violence prevention planning bodies to integrate services through collaboration and to use mixed funding streams	The Department of Public Safety is working with DHHS to encourage greater collaboration and blending of state resources through the Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils.	**Ongoing**

Emergency Management

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Assist local school districts and local emergency management offices with web-based emergency planning and drills	The two-part web-based portal for schools and first responders has been developed for state public schools with 2,374 schools in 96 counties online now and the remaining 38 schools in four counties working toward implementation. This program will allow first responders to access a virtual toolbox of information about each school available via secure link to their data terminals in responding patrol and emergency vehicles.	**Ongoing**

North Carolina Alcohol Beverage Control Commission

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Talk It Out NC	Talk It Out NC builds on the work done, the challenges faced, and the successes earned by many underage drinking initiatives conducted throughout the country. • Nearly two-thirds of middle school– and high school–aged youth know people around their age who have tried alcohol. • The average age that most youths try alcohol for the first time is just 14. • Thirty-eight percent of eighth graders have had alcohol at least once. • About 10 percent of 12-year-olds say they have tried alcohol. By age 15, that number jumps to 50 percent. The N.C. ABC Commission has collected resources from regional coalitions in North Carolina, efforts in other states, and national campaigns that were found to be particularly helpful. Also provided are links to the original qualitative and quantitative research conducted as part of this initiative. See more at: www.talkitoutnc.org/learn/	**Ongoing**

Department of Public Instruction

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Help school districts identify funding to make safety improvements	DPI is applying for some grants in this arena. If successful and funding is made available they will make LEAs aware of them. LEAs have been informed of other bond funding sources for school facility safety.	**Ongoing**

Department of Public Instruction

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Online Professional Development Modules. Each of these online courses are 5-hour self-paced courses, worth .5 CEUs upon completion. Each course was developed by a statewide team of North Carolina professionals. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction coordinated the efforts; staff with the North Carolina Center for Safer Schools were contributing members of the development teams.	**Understanding the Role of School Resource Officers in Schools:** The single greatest benefit for our K-12 students is to create collaborations among our educators, school resource officers, school nurses, school social workers, school counselors and school psychologists. This module will help school personnel develop an awareness of the role and effective utilization of SROs in order to create a caring and safe educational environment that benefits learning and community. **Understanding the Schools' Role in Suicide Prevention:** Suicide attempts have increased among North Carolina's student population of elementary, middle and high school students. Suicide attempts and deaths are devastating events for students, families, friends and staff, with crucial emotional consequences. This module will serve as a tool to assist educators, as teachers and peers are often among the first to identify when a student displays warning signs of contemplating suicide. This module provides an evidence-based tool increasing knowledge for prevention and intervention. Included are resources for assistance and recovery supports for the students, school staff and families. **Understanding Student Behavior in The Classroom:** This module is geared toward middle and high school teachers and school staff. The module will help teachers and staff develop an enhanced awareness of behavioral health issues in the classroom which may foster academic achievement for all students, decrease dropout rates, and increase North Carolina's graduation rates. **Understanding Young Student Behavior in The Classroom:** This module is for preschool through grade 5 teachers. The module will serve as a tool to assist teachers in developing an enhanced awareness of behavioral health issues in young students and extend that knowledge to foster long-term connectivity and academic achievement for all students, decrease the dropout rates, and ultimately increase North Carolina's graduation rates. **Preventing Substance Abuse and Underage Drinking Among K12 Students:** This module will serve as a tool to assist educators to serve as leaders to prevent and intervene with K-12 students who have or are at risk of developing substance abuse and underage drinking issues. The module empowers educators and community leaders with knowledge and action steps to help students and young people make informed decisions and avoid the dangers of underage consumption of alcohol, abuse of prescription medications and street drugs.	**Ongoing**

Department of Juctice
North Carolina Justice Academy

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Preventing Substance Abuse and Underage Drinking Among K-12 Students	This initiative gives educators and community leaders action steps to help students and young people avoid the dangers of underage consumption of alcohol, abuse of prescription medication abuse and street drugs use. A recent survey found that 87 percent of North Carolina teenagers reported that substance abuse is a problem. In North Carolina, two people die a week due to underage drinking, and the beginning age for experimenting with alcohol is 13.9 years old. This shows the importance of providing information and resources to school personnel so they can recognize signs of abuse among school-aged children. The illegal diversion of prescription drugs is the fastest growing drug problem in America. Approximately 1,000 North Carolinians die due to prescription drug abuse each year. This illegal drug use strains our economy, healthcare and criminal justice systems. Deaths from unintentional poisoning – mostly prescription drug abuse – have jumped nearly 300 percent in the past decade. From 1999 to 2012, deaths from the most addictive prescription drugs spiked 400 percent. The module provides actionable steps for recognizing the warning signs exhibited by students and provide resources to help. • Participants will understand the size, scope, and severity of the drinking and drug (both prescription and illicit) abuse problems and their impact. • Participants will be able to identify signs and symptoms of substance abuse and learn protocols for how and when to make a referral. • Participants will learn how to begin conversations with students and/or parents regarding underage drinking and drug abuse and how to include students as part of the solution. • Participants will learn about the crimes and their associated consequences for underage alcohol and drug consumption. • Participants will gain knowledge about resources available for underage drinking and drug prevention and treatment in North Carolina.	**Ongoing**

Department of Juctice
North Carolina Justice Academy

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Protecting North Carolina School Children from Careless Drivers	Every day thousands of drivers in North Carolina speed past stopped school buses, putting children at risk. In a one-day survey at the start of the 2014 school year, N.C. school bus drivers reported 3,153 vehicles passing stopped school buses, more than double the violations reported in 2000. In the past school year, N.C. children boarding or waiting for school buses have been injured and even killed by careless drivers. While parents, school officials and law enforcement work to protect children the sheer number of buses makes it impractical for law enforcement to catch every violator. North Carolina can protect children by using technology to help. Nationwide, state-of-the-art technology is catching violators who pass stopped school buses. Systems in Virginia and Georgia deploy stop-arm cameras mounted on school buses to detect illegally passing vehicles, photograph the license plates, and issue automatic citations to vehicle owners. The system pays for itself using fines collected from violators, similar to the way red light photo enforcement works. Using this civil citation method would improve student safety and enforcement while minimizing the work load on school districts, law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Early evidence shows it's working. A large, urban county in Georgia issued 1,302 citations in its first month, but by the sixth month, citations dropped to 375 per month, a 71 percent decrease. In North Carolina, legislation was passed by the Senate and is pending in the House.	**Ongoing**
Provide relevant training to N.C. School Resource Officers	The North Carolina Justice Academy's mission is to improve the quality and effectiveness of criminal justice services to the citizens of North Carolina through research, education, training and support for criminal justice and related personnel. In 2014/2015 FY, the North Carolina Justice Academy coordinated and delivered 24 classes specifically designed to train North Carolina school resource officers. These coordinated training efforts resulted in 893 SROs receiving crucial training, many of whom took multiple courses.	**Ongoing**

Department of Juctice
North Carolina Justice Academy

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Revising the N.C. School Resource Officer curriculum	The North Carolina Justice Academy works to provide the most relevant materials in its training classes. The North Carolina Justice Academy is in the process of rewriting the Basic School Resource Officer and the Advanced School Resource Officer program. These revisions will be designed to better prepare North Carolina's School Resource Officers to meet the ever-changing needs of the students, staff, and faculty within the school in which they are assigned.	**Ongoing**
Symposium on Active Shooter Trends and School Violence Prevention	During a five month period, the North Carolina Justice Academy collaborated with the Center for Safer Schools, and the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services to deliver five "Symposium on Active Shooter Trends and School Violence Prevention" training events. One of the primary goals of the symposia was to provide an overview of the roles of school personnel, mental health providers, students, law enforcement and other emergency response providers in order to reduce violence in our schools. This overview and a discussion about expectations of those involved served to strengthen and maximize a uniformed, streamlined approach thereby reducing and minimizing injuries in the event of an active threat. In all, 526 individuals from across North Carolina attended one of these training events.	**Ongoing**

Department of Health and Human Services

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
As a policy consideration, DHHS leadership strongly recommends and supports intervention at the earliest possible point where risk or problem behaviors are identified. Effective and early identification of problem behaviors can lead to more successful and long-lasting results when dealing with students and their families. To that end, DHHS provides effective, efficient delivery of early childhood education and support programming. DHHS, through the Division of Child Development and Early Education, as well as the N.C. Partnership for Children (Smart Start and local partnerships), support high quality early childhood initiatives because evidence shows that the road to academic and life success begins at birth. High quality early education experiences result in better school preparation, greater success in school and in turn, lower involvement in crime, better overall health and increased workforce success and production as children age and mature. Children who arrive at school healthy and ready to learn help build safe and productive schools and a safe and productive North Carolina, which is a benefit to them and to everyone around them. Studies have repeatedly shown that high quality care and time spent in nurturing environments in a child's first year's lead to greater future success.	DHHS with other departments, community partners, stakeholders and foundations is participating in the Essentials for Childhood Task Force to develop an integrated, comprehensive five-year strategic plan to coordinate and prioritize the services, programs and/or policies of a number of state agencies that will build on New Directions for NC. Addressing strengthening families, early education, health, emotional well-being and readiness supported through healthy brain development are areas of focus, through increasing state and community level primary prevention strategies of child maltreatment. Efforts incorporate the four goals of the CDC's Essentials for Childhood and applying a collective impact framework. DHHS in conjunction with DPI has created a work group to examine expulsions and suspensions in early learning settings. The recommendations for early childhood programs include: develop and clearly communicate preventive guidance and discipline practices; develop and clearly communicate expulsion and suspension policies; assess technical assistance in workforce development to prevent expulsion and suspension; set goals and analyze data to assess progress; and to make use of free resources to enhance staff training and strengthen family partnerships. These goals will be reflected in the upcoming state Child Care Development Fund plan for 2015-2018.	**Ongoing**

Department of Health and Human Services

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Feedback from the forums across North Carolina, as well as from DHHS staff and leadership, focused on the need to have many more positive adults included in the lives of school children at every local school. Positive adult engagement, through mentoring, tutoring or simply participating in school activities, creates a greater nurturing environment for all children, but especially those missing key adults in their lives. Significant levels of positive adult engagement can help instill resiliency in children and youth; it can also provide needed supports when higher degrees of risk are observed, or when crises occur. One example of this is the WATCH D.O.G.S. program managed by the National Center for Fathering referenced on page 9 in this report www.fathers.com. Also an important reference example, the Fathers Involvement Research Alliance (www.fira.ca) hosts many presentations, reports, studies and links demonstrating the positive impacts that consistently and positively involved fathers have on child and youth outcomes. A compendium research report from 2007 may be found here: www.fira.ca/cms/documents/29/Effects_of_Father_Involvement.pdf.	NC TOPPS data shows an increase in the number of positive adult role models in the lives of youth at treatment completion from 2011-2014. This data is used locally by Juvenile Justice Substance Abuse Mental Health Partnerships (LME-MCO, Juvenile Justice, & providers) and on the state level in order to plan system improvement initiatives. Positive Adult role models are encouraged in service plans and assist youth in accomplishing their goals beyond treatment.	**Ongoing**

Department of Health and Human Services

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Grow public awareness of and greater involvement of consumers and advocates in NC Families United and Youth M.O.V.E. chapters across the state (including the development of new chapters). Families United is supported by DHHS and other resources as a family support and advocacy organization that helps link families to services in their home communities that include mental health, physical health, social services and educational needs. See www.ncfamiliesunited.org. Youth M.O.V.E., supported through Families United, is a nationally acclaimed and recognized youth advocacy group dedicated to giving a voice to and improving the lives of youth involved in mental health, substance abuse, juvenile justice and child welfare systems www.ncfamiliesunited.org/m-o-v-e/. DHHS will work to increase consumer and citizen awareness of this resource so that families and youth have supportive networks to assist in the recognition of and management of issues related to mental illness, substance abuse and developmental disabilities.	Youth M.O.V.E is represented on several state level planning teams in conjunction with DMHDDSAS such as the System of Care (SOC) State Steering Committee and NAMI's annual CIT conference planning committee. Youth M.O.V.E representatives hosted a Youth Adult Leadership training of trainers Aug. 25, 2014 – August 29, 2014 in Greensboro in partnership with Josh's Hope, Inc. Thirty individuals consisting of 5 Teams from the following regions and behavioral health catchment areas participated in the week of training: Coastal Care (Trillium), Mecklenburg (Cardinal), Forsyth (Centerpoint), Surry (Partners) and the Statewide Team Greensboro/Alamance (Sandhills/ Cardinal). The outgrowth of this Leadership series will support the development of new chapters. Surry/Yadkin is an official chapter of Youth M.O.V.E.-North Carolina Coastal Care Region hosted youth leadership series. Other areas of outgrowth of the leadership series include: • Suicide Prevention Youth Advisory Council also hosted a leadership series. Graduates expressed an interested in Youth M.O.V.E. and continued advocacy at the school level. • The State Collaborative on Children, Youth and Families (Training and Technical Assistance and School-Based Mental Health Subcommittees) networks and Implementation of the System of Care Grant activities continues to be a critical mechanism for expanding leadership opportunities and awareness of Youth M.O.V.E. at the local levels.	**Ongoing**

Department of Health and Human Services

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Work to involve more families & communities in the parent-centered education resources & activities provided by NC Parent Resource Center www.ncparentresourcecenter.org. This resource focuses on the prevention of child and youth substance abuse through education and empowerment approaches targeting parents and caregivers. Through the managed care entities and other system collaborations, the department will help parents locate the resources needed for effective parenting strategies and interventions. Seen as intervention on the continuum, DHHS hopes to engage and educate parents concerning parenting practices, how to seek and maintain support, and what to look for in terms of risk, etc. are the goals for this action step.	In July 2014 the NC Parent Resource Center provided a presentation at the NC State Collaborative for Children and Families. October 2014 the Center met with MCO System of Care Coordinators via teleconference in order to present current center efforts, resources, and areas for collaboration. May 2015 the Center hosted a two-day Substance Abuse Prevention Conference. There were approximately 200 in attendance including prevention coalition directors/members, prevention and treatment professionals.	**Ongoing**
Increase resources for Crisis Intervention Team training (CIT). CIT is a police-based, pre-booking jail diversion approach that provides law enforcement (including SROs) and other first responders the training and tools needed to understand mental health and substance abuse crises and symptoms, as well as helping them make decisions that get youth needed services in lieu of incarceration (see www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas/services/crisisservices/index.htm). CIT is spreading across the state through the LME-MCOs through which the state's mental health system is administered locally, in partnership with various local entities including law enforcement, community colleges, county commissioners, advocacy organizations and similar groups.	The Division of Mental Health Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (DMHDDSAS) hosts quarterly CIT Advisory group meetings where information is collected and exchanged, including the implementation of CIT specifically for those involved with youth such as school resource officers. This year's meetings were held on Sept. 18, 2014; December 18, 2014; March 12, 2015; and June 11, 2015. DMHDDSAS's Justice Innovations Team is the repository for this information where local communities can request information and assistance in the development of their curricula. DMHDDSAS participated on the planning committee in collaboration with NAMI. The Conference was held in February 2015. Division staff also presented CIT and Jail Diversion at the conference which was attended by more than 500 professionals including more than 100 criminal justice professionals.	**Ongoing**

Department of Health and Human Services

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
(con't) To effectively expand CIT, DHHS will continue to educate police chiefs, sheriffs, LME-MCOs and other local entities as to the benefits of CIT and how various sites are identifying resources for the training and materials, as well as provide technical assistance regarding best practices for implementing CIT programs.	As of Jan. 1, 2015, there were 7,004 CIT-trained officers in the state. That's a 19 percent increase from the previous year. There are also now 352 law enforcement agencies participating in CIT – a 6 percent increase from last year. On May 5, 2015, a presentation on CIT and jail diversion was delivered to the state chapter National Association of Social Workers at Wrightsville Beach. Approximately 50 attendees were present. A Governors Crime Commission grant was awarded to the Center for Safer Schools for the exploration and development a CIT- Youth Curriculum (CIT-Y). DMHDDSAS is working in collaboration with the Center for Safer Schools on the CIT-Y advisory committee. Goals of the committee and grant include: Goal 1 - Develop a CIT for Youth curriculum model and a group of certified trainers who can provide substantive information to assist SROs in identifying potential emotional or mental health conditions associated with students with behavioral issues. Goal 2 - Reduce youth being channeled into either the Juvenile or Adult Justice Systems when mental health intervention would be more appropriate.	**Ongoing**

Department of Health and Human Services

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Work with local communities to create innovative strategies for integrating behavioral health and substance abuse services on school campuses or nearby. Given DHHS's support for holistic care, and feedback from each community forum and key stakeholder sessions strongly supporting this recommendation, integration of these services appears to be a high priority for schools and school districts. Several sites, including schools in Carteret and Jackson counties (see sidebar re: Jackson Psychological Services), have unique, innovative arrangements with local providers to bring resources onto school campuses that allow for consulting, assessment, counseling, crisis intervention and recovery, evaluation and other related student behavioral health services. Schools consistently report a lack of qualified student support team members (psychologists, social workers, guidance counselors and others) and see the need for more immediately available behavioral health interventions as a very high priority. Other helpful resources include articles by P. Ambruster, The Administration of School Based Health Clinics,www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11793571; and Atkins, Hoagwood, Kutash, and Seidman, 2010, Toward the Integration of Education and Mental Health in Schools (see www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2874625/).	A School Based Mental Health Newsletter was developed and disseminated in January 2015. The Winter 2015 newsletter was distributed to the N.C. State Collaborative for Children and Families, MCO System of Care Coordinators & Department of Public Instruction amongst others. In May 2015 the Children with Special Needs Subcommittee collaborated to host "Engaging Schools into the Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health Partnership" Webinar Hosts included Dana Tucker- School Social worker, Nan Trit-School Resource Officer, & Greta Metcalf-school based clinician.	**Ongoing**

Department of Health and Human Services

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Develop and maintain resources to ensure access to training in Youth Mental Health First Aid (see www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/youthmental-health-first-aid). This training is for any adult or older adolescent that has regular interactions with children and youth, and is designed to help trainees recognize risk or warning signs associated with various mental health or substance abuse related crises. It also teaches helpful strategies to effectively respond to these warning signs. Youth Mental Health First Aid is taught by certified trainers in local communities. Fees are associated with the training, and the recommendation includes a call for the Center for Safer Schools, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services, and others to work towards seeking grants or other funding to help support training for educators, parents and volunteers. Through the local System of Care coordinators and other outreach activities involving the LME-MCOs and their network partners, DHHS will work to expand knowledge about this resource.	In December 2014 DMHDDSAS hosted a webinar with national and local speakers for N.C. certified instructors. In 2015 four Instructor Certification trainings were held between January and April; two youth and two adult versions. A total of 110 new certified instructors resulted. To date there are more than 300 certified instructors in North Carolina and more than 10,000 laypersons who have taken the course, also known as mental health first aiders. On May 18, 2015, DMHDDSAS hosted the 1st N.C. Instructors Summit with speakers including Betsy Swartz from the National Council, DHHS Secretary Aldona Wos, and DPS Secretary Frank Perry. There were a total of 112 participants from 62 agencies in attendance. Beginning in April 2014, DMHDDSAS has supported the training infrastructure in North Carolina by proving participant manuals at no cost for all instructors with scheduled trainings. To date more than 5,000 manuals have been ordered. This has allowed instructors and their respective agencies to reduce the cost of trainings and therefore make it more accessible to the general population.	**Ongoing**

Department of Health and Human Services

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
Help professionals and parents grow their awareness of the role of trauma in the psychological, physical and social growth of children. Forum and key stakeholder feedback, much from behavioral health providers and their colleagues in various locations, emphasized the negative impact that trauma has on childhood learning as well as the need for teachers and school administrators to have knowledge on this topic. Experts and resources such as those offered through the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) (see www.nctsn.org/) can train clinicians and student support teams in the importance of recognizing the wide impacts that trauma has on children. The NCTSN has a highly effective curriculum for school personnel (Psychological First Aid, see www.nctsn.org/content/psychological-first-aid) to help them recognize, prevent and/or intervene for effective crisis management and recovery when students and families are affected by potential or real trauma. Related to child and youth trauma, bullying and cyber-bullying often result in very poor outcomes for victims, including potential violence and sexual violence. Stakeholder recommendations in these areas included much more training on the impacts of bullying, cyber-bullying and the impacts of date/social/sexual violence on students. One example of a resource in this area may be found here: www.svri.org/MentalHealthResponse.pdf (Sexual Violence Research Initiative – Briefing Paper: Mental Health Responses for Victims of Sexual Violence and Rape in Resource-Poor Settings).	The Division of Mental Health Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services is partnering with the NC Child Treatment Program (CTP), which focuses on bringing evidence-based trauma treatments to scale in North Carolina. In SFY 2015, CTP increased its scope of training to a total of five evidence-based treatment models to include Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress (SPARCS), Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) and Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-up (ABC); serving children birth-10 years and 3-18 years of age. In addition, CTP completed development of a data exchange tool with data entry and reporting features, NC Performance and Outcomes Platform (NC POP). In all, CTP's public roster currently contains up-to-date contact information for 347 mental health clinicians able to provide TF-CBT across the state. CTP is continuing efforts to ensure that all of those on the roster have been trained in the most updated elements of TF-CBT, and that they are delivering the treatment with fidelity. Taken as a whole, clinician-trainees participating in the nine Learning Collaboratives offered by CTP enrolled 272 help-seeking clients in evidence-based treatment from Oct. 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015. Added to previous quarters' enrollments, 1,129 clients have been enrolled in evidence-based treatment across CTP's nine Learning Collaboratives. DMHDDSAS provided coordination and participated in symposia held across the state hosted by the Center for Safer Schools and the Justice Academy. With Support from Local LME-MCOs and family partners the mental health & trauma portion of the eight-hour symposium entitled "Supporting Mental Health in Schools, Why it Matters" was delivered to school system professionals and law enforcement as follows: Sept. 2, 2014: Salemburg with 89 attendees Sept. 29, 2014: Dallas with 57 attendees Sept. 30, 2014: Asheville with 92 attendees	**Ongoing**

Department of Health and Human Services

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
(con't) Bullying and cyber-bullying have been referenced in other sections of this report and more specific references can be found under recommendation (f) for the Center for Safer Schools.	Nov. 10, 2014: Franklin with 163 attendees Jan. 23, 2015: Wilmington with 125 attendees	**Ongoing**
Assist state and local mental health administrators, in partnership with educators, in learning and managing effective crisis response strategies, tools and techniques. Again, at multiple forum locations, both educators and behavioral health professionals emphasized the need for more training on the management of crises. DHHS staff and allies are working on updating and disseminating a toolkit that helps identify and organize resources for responding to and recovering from a crisis. The NC-specific toolkit is being produced based on Responding to a High-Profile Tragic Incident Involving a Person with a Serious Mental Illness: A Toolkit for State Mental Health Commissioners www.nasmhpd.org/docs/publications/docs/2010/ViolenceToolkit_Bkmk.pdf. DHHS, through its state Medicaid plan and other resources, funds Mobile Crisis Services, Intensive In-Home and other family and community-based services. Helping school systems, counselors, school psychologists and others know the referral and treatment options available through local Managed Care Organizations and their providers will help with intervention and crisis response as well as recovery capabilities. DHHS will work with the Center for Safer Schools to determine the most effective strategies to help school systems and LME-MCOs best collaborate around awareness of	The Crisis Solutions Coalition is a group of stakeholders who meet quarterly to guide the work of the initiative and set work activity and funding priorities. Several of those priorities also supported the N.C. Center for Safer Schools' recommendations during the SFY 2014 – 2015. Training for Law Enforcement in the Crisis Intervention Team model and development of Youth Mental Health First Aid are detailed elsewhere in this report. Progress on other items includes: • Educational presentations on the crisis intervention continuum, effective strategies and how to access local crisis resources to a variety of stakeholder groups. Groups that specifically included child-serving agencies and school personnel included: o NC Child Fatality Task Force/Intentional Death Prevention Committee, December 2014 o NC Division of Social Services Directors meeting, March 2015 o NC TIDE Conference, April 2015 • The Crisis Solutions Coalition agenda included a youth topic at the September 2014 meeting – "Facility Based Crisis for Children & Adolescent - Discussion & Stakeholder Comments Forum". • On Jan. 20, 2015, the Crisis Solutions Initiative and the N.C. Practice Improvement Collaborative co-sponsored a day-long seminar for more than 160 leaders on "The Future of Crisis Response in North Carolina." Nationally recognized experts presented state-of-the-art models for suicide prevention, telephone call centers and mobile crisis response to local leaders. The seminar provided an impetus and materials used in ongoing planning that will re-shape crisis response services. The N.C. General Assembly allocated $2.2 million of recurring funding in its 2014-2015 budget to support	**Ongoing**

Department of Health and Human Services

Program/Initiative	Description	Status
(con't) mental health and crisis intervention resources available within each local community.	the development of Behavioral Health Urgent Care sites and Facility-Based Crisis Units. The N.C. Division of MH/DD/SAS identified an additional $1,793,833 of federal block grant funding for use in SFY 2014 -2015 and again for SFY 2015-2016. This total of nearly $8 million has been allocated to four Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (Smoky Mountain Center, CenterPoint Human Services, Eastpointe, & Cardinal Innovations Healthcare Solutions) and their behavioral health provider partners in a competitive application process. Behavioral Health Urgent Care programs will serve both adults and youth as alternatives to local emergency departments for crisis response. Facility-Based crisis units serve as local alternatives to inpatient hospitalization.	
Foster broader training and implementation of System of Care throughout North Carolina. Children with serious emotional disturbances and substance use problems face many Challenges - at home, in school, in social situations and in the community. Therefore, they need coordinated services and supports from a variety of child-serving agencies as well as natural supports in their home communities. Systems of Care (SOC) are coordinated networks of community services organized to meet these challenges. SOC Coordinators are in each LME-MCO to work with partner agencies to provide services and supports. The SOC model is not a program; it is a philosophy of how care should be delivered. This approach recognizes the importance of family, school and community and promotes each child's full learning and other potential by addressing physical, emotional, intellectual, cultural and social needs. By ensuring that teachers,	On Sept. 30 2014, DMH/DD/SAS was the recipient of a competitive four-year System of Care Expansion Service grant. The focus of this statewide initiative is to implement the SOC comprehensive, strategic plan, as well as, pilot and test a high-fidelity wraparound model that will directly support young people with complex needs and their families/guardians. The grant is currently in the implementation phase in five sites across North Carolina to include Cardinal-Central, Cardinal-Mecklenburg Region, Trillium-CoastalCare, CenterPoint, and Eastpointe. The Division of Mental Health Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services partnered with The Department of Public Safety, UNC Greensboro Center for Youth, Family & Community Partnerships and UNC School of Government to produce the "North Carolina Juvenile Justice-Behavioral Health Information Sharing Guide." This guide is a tool for effective information sharing among juvenile justice and behavioral health agencies. The guide details information sharing principles and considerations, laws governing information sharing, a joint juvenile justice-behavioral health consent for release of information and sample memorandum of understanding for involved parties. The multi-party joint consent will allow for juvenile justice, LME-MCO and behavioral health providers to share information	

Department of Health and Human Services		
Program/Initiative	**Description**	**Status**
(con't) student support personnel, administrators, parents/caregivers, advocates and providers understand the important concepts of SOC, services are coordinated most effectively: based on child and family strengths as well as individualized service planning (see: www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas/services/serviceschildfamily/index.htm).	with each other as indicated on the form. This will drastically reduce the burden for families and increase access to assessment and treatment while provide continuity in care for youth. The guide can be located at: www.sog.unc.edu/sites/www.sog.unc.edu/files/JJBH%20Information%20Sharing%20Guide%20FINAL_4.7.15.pdf	**Ongoing**

Next Steps and Future Projects

The N.C. Center for Safer Schools is actively pursuing many avenues in promoting school safety through information sharing, training and technical assistance. Some of these projects include:

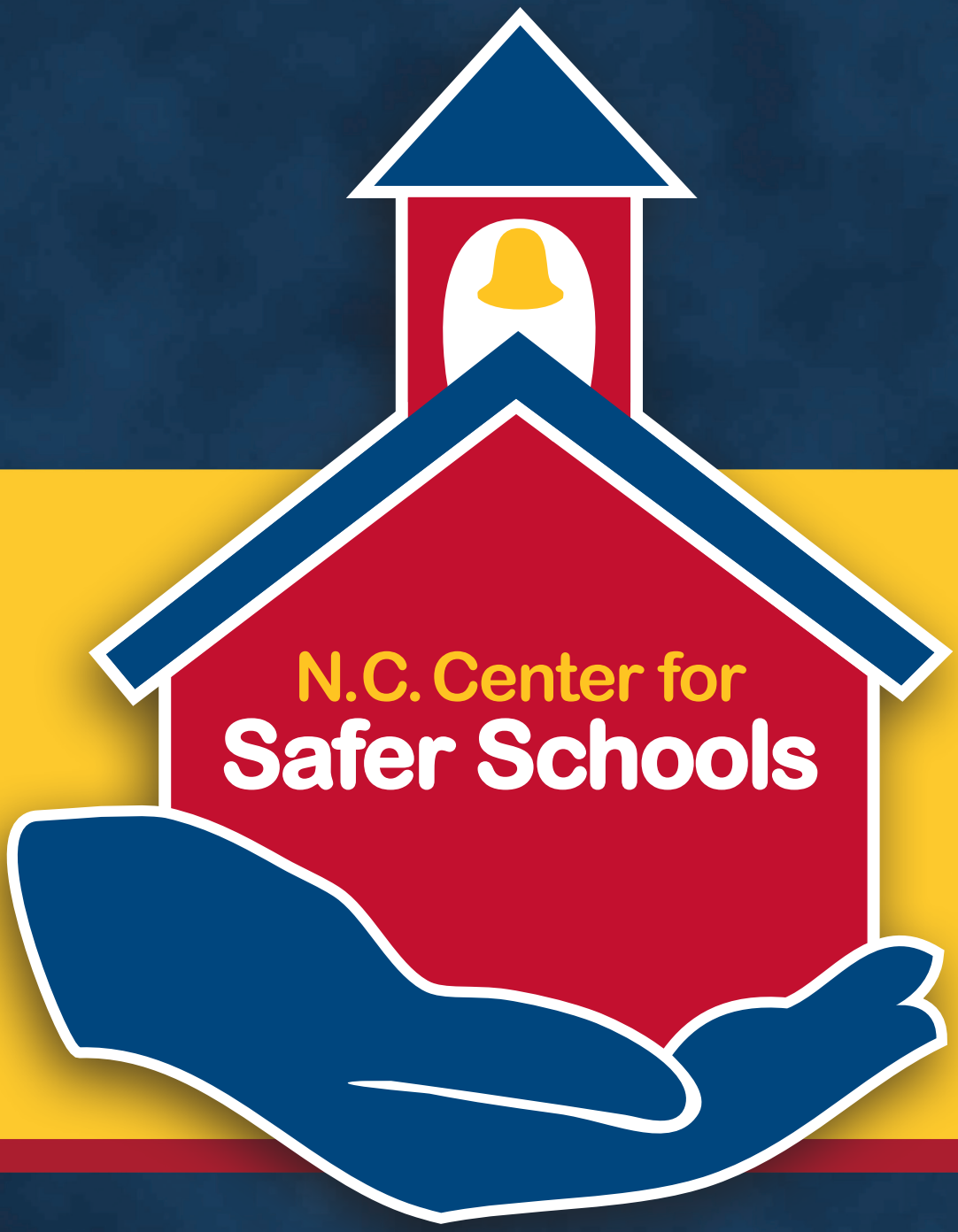
- Developing a statewide model for Crisis Intervention Team for Youth training for SROs and any officer that comes in contact with youths in crisis.
- The CFSS will be utilizing two School Safety Analyst positions funded via a Homeland Security Grant. These two positions will be working with analysts of the State Bureau of Investigation's Fusion Center, which compiles data from numerous law enforcement agencies to seek methods of predicting potential trouble areas or crimes in schools including colleges and universities.
- Collaborating with the Justice Academy, along with partners from the N.C. School Resource Officer Association, Department of Public Instruction and Department of Health and Human Services, to help ensure that the basic SRO curriculum is providing current and informative courses that benefit SROs' professional development and ability to be a productive resource on multiple fronts within schools.
- Planning and developing strategies and programming for either a statewide or regional conferences on school safety to be held in either 2016 or 2017.
- Investigating the future of collaborating with the Department of Community Colleges and then with our state's four-year institutions on issues of campus safety and teacher education that would include critical incident planning and response and school violence prevention.
- Working with the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission to develop programs that focus on reducing underage consumption of alcohol and other substance abuse issues among students. The CFSS will be sharing a contracted position with the Governor's Under-Age Drinking and Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force to focus attention on these issues.
- The Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools has formed a subcommittee to address the issues of substance abuse and under-age drinking and gang involvement among students and awaits this group's findings.
- Evaluating the impact of current anti-bullying legislation and working with the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools on ways to enhance these laws.
- The Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools and the N.C. Center for Safer Schools will continue to investigate areas to encourage legislative action for school safety issues requiring state level leadership. Areas to be considered include continued support and expansion for SRO funding, new funding for expansion of school psychologists and social workers, and grants for local schools to update their security measures.
- Continue working with the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools, the Justice Academy and the Department of Health and Human Services to plan and implement new symposia geared toward training in rapid response and recovery, critical incident response for school faculty and staff, and supporting mental health in schools. The audience includes law enforcement, school administrators and teachers, and mental health providers.
- Working with N.C. Emergency Management to support and implement the School Safety/Statewide School Risk and Response Management System, which includes the web-based applications for school maps and schematics, school risk management plans, tabletop exercises and drills, anonymous reporting student app, and integration of a statewide panic alarm system. This will be done with collaboration and coordination with the Department of Public Instruction and the N.C. 911 Board.

Conclusion

The N.C. Center for Safer Schools continues to work tirelessly to improve the safety of North Carolina's students and school faculty. The Centers' staff brings years of training, research and school safety experience to the table and continue to seek to develop safety standards and collaborations. The Center is well positioned to help guide and foster relationships among all of the agencies and organizations involved in developing various school safety plans and initiatives. The Center, along with the Governor's Task Force on Safer Schools, our state level partners – the Departments of Public Instruction, Public Safety, Health and Human Services and Justice– and all local and individual partners, are all working together to seek common resolutions to the concern of safety in our schools. The Center is providing leadership in these collaborations and will continue to foster new partnerships to enhance this effort and to expanding the number of schools we assist. Entities looking to the Center for Safer Schools to meet these demands are:

- Public Schools
- Charter Schools
- Private Schools
- Community Colleges
- State and Private Colleges and Universities

The Center seeks to facilitate the vision that all schools in the state are safe, secure and offer an environment conducive to learning.



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