

Comox Valley Community Violence Threat/Risk Assessment Protocol

A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to
Violence Threat/Risk Assessment

June 2011

June 2011 – The Signing of our VTRA Protocol



- Welcome and Introductions
- VTRA in OUR Community: Past, Present, Future
- Our Commitments
- Signing our Protocol
- Awareness and Action

Background

- High profile school shootings in US & Canada
- Need for a systematic, evidence based approach to prevention and intervention in cases involving the potential for violence in educational institutions
- Kevin Cameron: *Canadian Centre For Threat Assessment and Traumata Response*
- Level One and Level Two VTRA training in districts throughout Canada and the United States begins
- Community Protocols used to support the multidisciplinary approach to Threat/Risk Assessment

Multidisciplinary Approach

- Experience has clearly and continually demonstrated that successful prevention and intervention is best supported when community partners work together to respond, investigate and plan interventions and supports in response to incidents of violent threat and high risk behaviours
 - **Premise One:** No one party or organization has access to all the critical information
 - **Premise Two:** Successful interventions are best supported by the free flow of information between agencies
 - **Premise Three:** Canadian law clearly supports/advocates for the sharing of personal information between agencies when there is **clear evidence of significant risk** to an individual or groups

Community Violence Threat/Risk Assessment Protocol

- Signed off by the head representatives from each community partner (Lead partners in the Comox Valley include School District 71, RCMP, MCFD, and VIHA)
- Other community agencies and organizations have been or will be presented with opportunities to respond to our protocol
- The core element in the protocol is the agreement to openly share information required in a VTRA investigation

The Structure

District Threat Assessment Committee

- Meets periodically to refine understanding and practices of the TAP, connect leaders, sustain training, and review our response to incidents or issues in the community
- Acts to promote “Fair Notice” in the community

The Structure (cont'd)

School Threat Assessment Team (STAT)

- Comprised of the School Principal, Vice-Principal, School Counsellor, District Senior Staff, District Crisis Response Coordinator(s), RCMP, MCFD and other partners as required/indicated by the scope of the investigation – composition is fluid
- Conducts the investigation in Stage 1 and Stage 2

The Legislation

- There is both federal and provincial legislation (as outlined in the Protocol document) that provides clear direction that the sharing of information in a situation that impacts the safety of an individual or group is legal and that consent of the individual is not required to open the communication channels if a risk or threat is indicated

Training

- District administrators, RCMP, MCFD, and other educators have received training
- Level One and Two Training opportunities have created a pool of trained teams throughout our district
- More training will be needed ongoing
- Anticipate developing our own local trainers in the future

Fair Notice

- The Comox Valley School District and community partners are committed to making our schools safe for students and staff.
- The Comox Valley School District will respond to all student behaviors that pose a potential risk to other students, staff and members of the community.

Commitments

RCMP, MCFD and School District 71 commit to meeting regularly through DTAC, and will invite and involve others as needed.

School teams (STATs) commit to regular involvement of the RCMP and MCFD when assessing risk, and to inform and involve the School Medical Officer (VIHA)

Community and group leaders commit to participate in the promotion of "Fair Notice" and to activate and promote the protocol within their organization

As citizens, we commit to communicate threats or behaviors that may be early indicators of future violence to an individual or group

Signing our Protocol

On June 21, 2011, the district hosted a formal signing ceremony at Valley View School.