

PROMISING PRACTICES FOR SCHOOL LAW ENFORCEMENT [9518]

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Workshop Summary

Over the past decade community policing has expanded into schools. Many schools are partnering with local law enforcement agencies to employ a part time or full time law enforcement officer on school grounds. These officers are frequently referred to as School Resource Officers (SROs). This workshop will focus on the findings of a Pennsylvania statewide process evaluation of state funded School Resource Officer (SRO) Programs. The research was conducted through a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency in coordination with the Center for Safe Schools and the Mercyhurst Civic Institute. The research included surveys of students, teachers, parents, law enforcement officers, and supervisors in addition to site visits and interviews with SROs and school administrators regarding the implementation and continuation of state funded SRO programming. Some of the topics addressed were funding, communication, training, barriers of implementation, memorandums of understanding, perceived impact on drug activity, gang activity, and violence as it pertains to the SRO. The ultimate goal of the project is to develop a promising practices manual for SROs in Pennsylvania.

Workshop Goal

Participants, especially school administrators and law enforcement officials, will acquire and discuss information on School Resource Officer programs in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation

Workshop Objectives

1. To identify the history of SRO programs in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation
2. To identify the current practices of state funded SRO programs in Pennsylvania
3. To identify attitudes and perceptions of teachers, students, parents, school administrators, and law enforcement officers related to SRO programs as reported through the statewide evaluation of SROs
4. To define promising practices for SRO programming as identified through the statewide SRO evaluation
5. To collect participant experiences and beliefs pertaining to promising practices for SROs to be considered for inclusion in the manual

Workshop Activities

- Introduction by Tom Ford of the Statewide Evaluation of School Resource Officers in Pennsylvania
- Facilitation by Amy Eisert of participant identification of their familiarity with SRO programming
- Participant identification of areas of importance pertaining to school programming and thoughts and perceptions on promising practices for SROs
- Presentation on the history of SRO programming
- Presentation of the findings of the statewide evaluation, and identification of the promising practices

of the SRO programs in Pennsylvania

- Participant discussion of the findings and sharing of their own experiences with SRO programs and the components that they identify as being vital to the program

Assessment

No pre- or post-tests will be used at this informational workshop. Attendees will have ample time to ask questions, network with colleagues about the SRO program, and provide feedback.

Resources

References