The Growing Concern Regarding School Resource Officers

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Overview

Presence of SROs

History

Issues/concerns around the misuse of SROs in the educational setting

Recommendations

The Presence of School Resource Officers in Educational settings

 SROs are one of the fastest growing areas of law enforcement

(National Association of School Resource Officers , 2012)

 Approximately 19,000 SROs working in schools across the U.S.

(U.S. Department of Justice Statement of Interest, 2015)

Nearly half of public schools now have a police presence

(Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, 2010)

Recent Misuse of SROs

Kenton County, KY

 SRO handcuffed 8 & 9 year old elementary students above the elbows on multiple occasions for noncompliance (S.R. & L.G. v. Kenton County Sheriff's Office, 2015) Okeechobee County FL

 10 Year old child with Autism handcuffed and arrested at school for kicking teacher.

History & Purpose of SROs

- Changing mission of SROs is often reactionary to public outcry of a perceived threat to our nation's youth
 - Permanent placement of law enforcement within schools originated during 1950's (Flint, MI) to decrease school violence
 - Specifically *gun-related incidents* (Johnson, 1999; James & McCallion, 2013).
 - 1960's-70's, SROs placed in schools in Southern states to address safety issues related to *racial tensions* (Coon & Travis, 2012).
 - 1980s SROs tasked with deterring *drug related problems* across the nation (Price, 2009).
 - Recent surge in SROs due to school shootings (e.g., Columbine, Sandy Hook) (Samah, 2015; Toppo, 2013).
- Mission Creep due in part to a lack of clear policy guidelines defining their roles (Na & Gottfreyson, 2011).

Roles & Responsibilities of SROs

(National Association of School Resource Officers, 2012)

3 Pronged Mission

- 1. Law enforcement (Enforcing Laws & Ordinances)
- 2. Teaching (e.g., Drug & Gang Awareness Classes)
- 3. Mentoring (e.g., Advising Staff)

Critical Issues Regarding SROs

- 1. SROs being used inappropriately to manage student misbehavior
- 2. SROs inadvertently promoting the school to prison pipeline
- 3. Lack of policies regulating roles and responsibilities
 - (e.g., Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) / Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs)
- 4. SROs lack of training

Issue 1 SROs Being Used to Manage Student Misbehavior

- 41% of teachers identified student misbehavior as a barrier to teaching (National Center for Educational Statistics, 2014)
 - 43% of schools report inadequate levels of teacher training in behavior management (NCES, 2014).
- Increased levels of misbehavior, coupled with a lack teacher training in positive behavioral interventions, have resulted in over use of harsh / aversive behavioral interventions (e.g., suspension, seclusion, restraint) (NDRN, 2009)
- Punitive approaches often ineffective because they
 - · are reactive v. proactive
 - fail to teach appropriate alternative behaviors
 - may reinforce a problem behavior
 - remove students from instructional opportunities

(George, 2012; Ryan, Sanders, Katsiyannis & Yell, 2007)

Issue 2:

SROs Inadvertently Promoting School to Prison Pipeline

- Tasking SROs to deal with student misbehavior has increasingly criminalized traditional school disciplinary issues, exacerbating the school to prison pipeline (Bracy, 2010; Mukherjee, 2007).
- Office for Civil Rights data indicated (OCR, 2014)
 - · 260,000 students were referred to law enforcement
 - · 92,000 students were arrested
 - · 70,000 were physically restrained
 - 37,000 students were placed in seclusion

Issue 2 School to Prison Pipeline Cont.

Increasing Number of School Arrests

- Public order offenses (e.g., disorderly conduct, obstruction of justice) have increased by 108% from 1985-2009 (Strategies for Youth, 2013)
- Schools with SROs have 5 times as many arrests for disorderly conduct as schools without SROs (Justice Policy Institute, 2011)
- DOJ Letter of interest (US DOJ, 2015)

Issue 2 School to Prison Pipeline Cont.

Negative Impacts Upon Recidivism

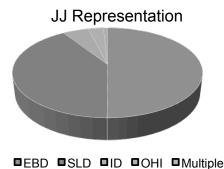
- Early age of first offense, status offenses, and being prosecuted for a first offense are significant predictors of recidivism (Barrett et al., 2014; Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2015).
- Students with DSM diagnosis relating to aggression were >3 times more likely to commit a second offense (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2015)
- Students with other mental health diagnosis are 2 times more likely (Barrett & Katsiyannis, 2015)

Issue 2 School to Prison Pipeline (Cont.)

<u>Disproportional Impact on Students With Disabilities</u>

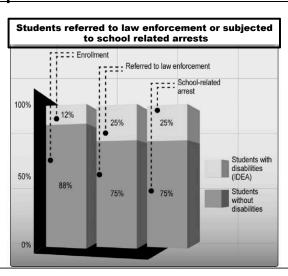
 Nearly half of students with emotional disturbance and 24% of students with learning disabilities had contact with the juvenile justice system in comparison to 13% of non-identified students (Fabelo et al., 2011)

Students With Disabilities Overrepresented in Juvenile Justice (JJ) System (National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability, 2015)



Issue 2 School to Prison Pipeline Cont.

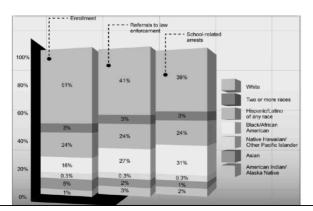
Disproportional Impact on students with disabilities (Civil Rights Data Collection, 2014)



Issue 2 School to Prison Pipeline Cont.

Disproportional Impact on Minorities (Civil Rights Data Collection, 2014)

• While black students make up only 16% of the overall population, they represent 27% of students referred to law enforcement, and 31% of students arrested at school (Fabelo, et al., 2011; Leiber, 2002; Mallet, 2014).



Issue 3 Lack of Policies Regulating SRO Roles and Responsibilities

- 32 states have some kind of law regarding SRO
 - Recommendation for use MOU to specification of training
 - 9 states require only certified law enforcement officers
- 18 states have no laws
 - · 2 states (MN, OH) pending legislation

Issue 3 Lack of Policies Regulating SRO Roles and Responsibilities

- SRO programs frequently lack detailed written definitions on roles & responsibilities to guide officers in their duties and govern school administrators in the use of SROs (Finn, Shively, McDevitt, Lassiter & Rich, 2005).
 - MOU/MOA
 - 13 states require MOU/MOA
 - · 2 "encourage" (IL, VT) but have no other requirements

Issue 3 Lack of Policies Regulating SRO Roles and Responsibilities

- Data-based assessment
 - Establish the need for and/or effectiveness of programs
 - 2 states require use of data (AZ, PA)
 - Specifically tied to grant money funding the SRO position

Issue 4 SROs Lack of Training

- Only 15 states have established specific training/ certification requirements for SROs
 - (AR, CA, CO, CT, IN, KY, LA, MO, NJ, NC, RI, SC, TN, TX, UT)
- 76% of states do not mandate juvenile justice training for law enforcement beyond the basic training received at the police academy (IACP, 2011).
 - State police academies spend <1% of total training on juvenile justice issues (Strategies for Youth Survey, 2013).

Recommendations for Schools

(Ryan, Katsiyannis, Counts & Shelnut, 2017)

- 1. Assessment of need and continuing assessment based on data collection of program effectiveness
- 2. Establish policies/guidelines regarding the use of SROs
 - Develop Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that ensures SROs are not used to manage student misbehavior unless criminal in nature utilizing a Unified Stakeholders Approach
- 3. Increase Training for Teachers & SROs in behavior management and disability awareness
 - Including multi-tiered systems (e.g. PBIS)

Recommendation 1 Assessment

- Schools need to assess their safety needs
- On-going assessment of effectiveness of program based on program goals
 - · Requires data collection
- Assessment and evaluation of SRO

Assessment Resources Assessment World Wide Web Link

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). Safe Schools: Assessing School Safety Online Course	http://elearning-courses.net/iacp/ registrationPortal/courseInformation.cfm? courseID=3
OJJDP National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC)	https://www.nttac.org
A Guide to School Vulnerability Assessments: Key Principles for Safe Schools	http://rems.ed.gov
Threat Assessment in Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and to Creating Safe School Climates.	http://rems.ed.gov/docs/ThreatAssessmentinSchools.pdf

Recommendation 2 Establish Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Guidance

- Require all SROs be carefully selected law enforcement officers who have received specialized SRO training in the use of police powers and authority in a school environment.
- Clearly define the roles of the SRO to include those of:
 - · Law enforcement officer
 - Teacher
 - Informal counselor
- Prohibits SROs from becoming involved in formal school discipline situations that are the responsibility of school administrators.

(nasro.org)

Establish a (MOU) Utilizing a Unified Stakeholders Group (Teske, 2017)

- Rule 1: School-Justice partners responsible for school, law enforcement, and court decision making are mandatory voting members.
- Rule 2: May include those providing financial or in-kind support with voting authority
- Rule 3: All others are advisory members (e.g., Parents / Youth / Faith Based / Advocates / Teachers) are non-voting members
- Rule 4: Voting members may veto decisions contrary to regulations or the law.

Establish a (MOU) utilizing a Unified Stakeholders Approach (Teske, 2017)

Establish Definitions

- Focus Acts
- · Felony vs. Misdemeanor
- Student/Juvenile

<u>Develop Discipline Decision Tree Using a Graduated</u> <u>Response System</u>

- · High / Medium / Low
- · What are the responses associated with each level?

MOU Resources

MOU	World Wide Web Link
MOU Guidance Advancement Project	http://b.3cdn.net/advancement/cf357b9f96d8c55ff8_rdm6ib9js.pdf
U.S. Department of Justice	http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2013 MOU-FactSheet v2 091613.pdf
National School Board Association Council of School Attorneys	http://www.aswdlaw.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/1013_InqAnalysis-FINAL.pdf
Broward Co. FL MOU	http://www.ncjfcj.org/sites/default/files/Broward%20Co%20Collaborative %20Agreement%20on%20School%20Discipline%20-%20MOU.pdf
NASRO sample MOUs	https://nasro.org/?s=memorandum+of+understanding

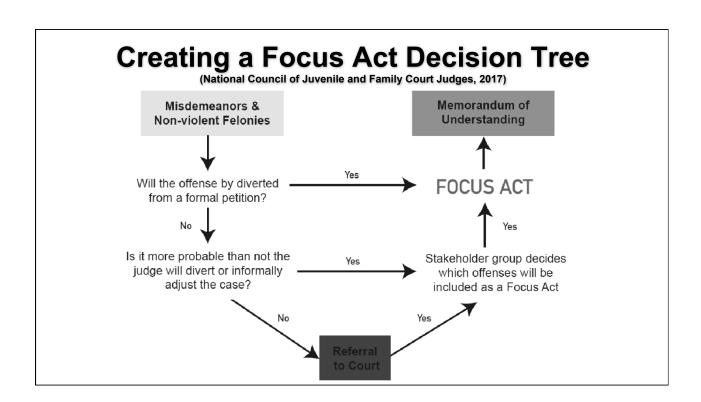
Unified Stakeholders Approach (Cont.)

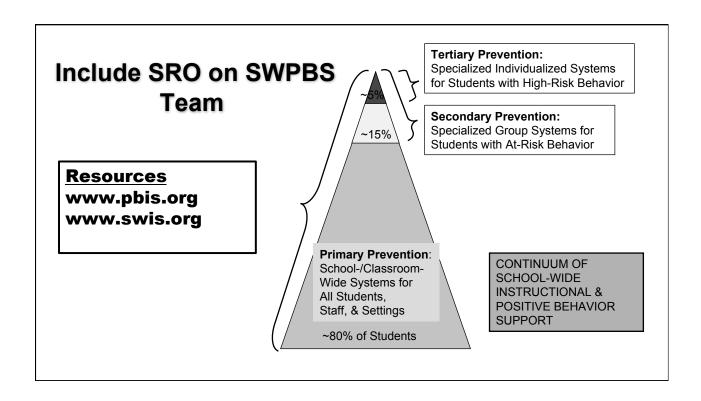
Actions for Special Cases

- IEP Students
- Chronically Disruptive (Referral for mental health/Special Education assessment)
- Probation
- Bullies (Bully Prevention Programs)
- Treatment of Elementary students

Quality Control

- Data Collection (What data is collected? / Who collects? / How is it used/reported?)
- Who participates (stakeholders)?
- What are outcome measures?
- · Who provides training and how often?
- What is the process for modification?





Initiative, Committee	Purpose	Outcome	Target Group	Staff Involved
Attendance Committee	Increase attendance	Increase % of students attending daily	All students	
Character Education	Improve character	Improve character	All students	
Safety Committee	Improve safety	Predictable response to threat/crisis	Dangerous students	
School Spirit Committee	Enhance school spirit	Improve morale	All students	
Discipline Committee	Improve behavior	Decrease office referrals	Bullies, antisocial students, repeat offenders	
DARE Committee	Prevent drug use		High/at-risk drug users	
EBS Work Group	Implement 3-tier model	Decrease office referrals, increase attendance, enhance academic engagement, improve grades	All students	

Recommendation 2 Identify Youth At-Risk for Juvenile Justice Trajectory (Mathur, in press)

Area	Early Warning Signs	Method of Measurement	
Aggression & Anti-social Behavior	Exposure to aggression / violence in the home Bullying, threatening, or intimidating others Quick to anger Violence against others	Observation, interview, or self-report Office Disciplinary Referrals Assessments: • Bullying & Victimization Scales (Hamburger, Basile, & Vivolo, 2011) • Child Behavior Checklist (Achenbach, 1992) • Social Skills Improvement System (Gresham & Elliott 2008)	
		Behavior Assessment System for Children (Reynolds & Kamphaus, 2015)	
School Engagement and Attitude	Learning disabilities	Observation, interview, or self-report Assessment	
	Emotional disabilities	Attendance data	
	• Truancy	Grades	
	Poor academic performance/grades	Office Disciplinary Referrals Assessments:	
	Increase in behavioral referrals Suspension or expulsion	Classroom Climate Scale (Multisite Violence Prevention Project, 2004)	
	Negative attitude towards school	Antisocial Beliefs and Attitudes Scale (Butler, Leschied, & Fearon, 2007)	

Recommendation 2 Identify Youth At-Risk for Juvenile Justice Trajectory (Mathur, in press)

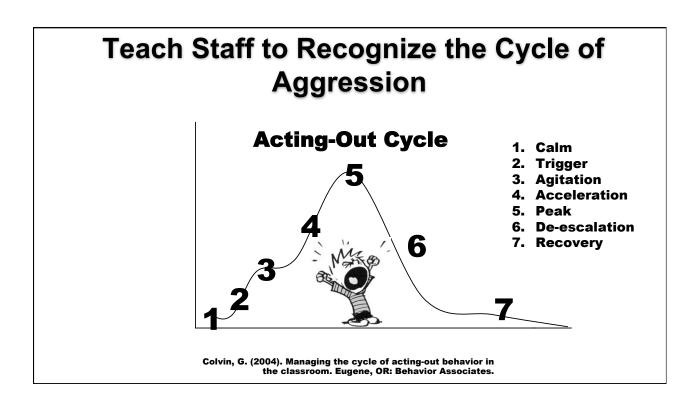
Area	Early Warning Signs	Method of Measurement
Extra-curricular Activities	Decrease in extracurricular involvement or activities	Observation interview, or self-report Assessment: • Prosocial Involvement, Opportunities and Rewards (Arthur, Hawkins, Pollard, Catalano & Baglioni, 2002)
Self-regulation	Impulsivity Engaging in high risk behaviors	Observation Interview, or self-report Assessments: • The Adolescent Self-Regulatory Inventory (Moilanen, 2007) • Social Skills Improvement System (Gresham & Elliott, 2008)
Relationships	Lack of strong parental involvement Affiliations with negative peers Lack of socialization with pro-social peers	Observation Interview, or self-report Assessments: • Flourishing Families Survey (Lippman, Guzman,& Moore, 2012)
Neglect, Maltreatment, or Trauma	Exposure to adverse childhood experiences	Observation Interview, or self-report Assessment: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Questionnaire (Felitti et al., 1998)

Recommendation 3 Increase Training for Teachers & SROs

- Behavior Management
- Child development
- Disability awareness
- Communication techniques

Increase Educator, Administrator, & SRO Training in Managing Student Behavior

- What are the actions of adults that contribute to student behavioral escalation?
- Small behaviors escalate into larger ones if not dealt with correctly
- Adults are often part of the acting-out cycle for students
 - Adult actions can prevent a cycle, break a cycle early, or escalate behavior.
- Effective behavior management is heavily dependent on teacher's ability to analyze student behavior in a given manner and intervene effectively



How to Intervene with Aggressive Behavior

Student Stage	Student Stage
1. Calm	1. Enjoy it while it lasts!
2. Trigger	2. Notice What Precipitates the Problem
3. Agitation	3. "Listen" to the Problem
4. Acceleration	4. Clearly Set Limits
5. Peak	5. Allow the Child to Vent; Remove the Audience
6. De-escalation	6. Take a Deep Breath
7. Recovery	7. Problem Solve with the Student and Any Staff

INDIANA IEP RESOURCE CENTER

Training Programs that Provide De-escalation Training

17 Crisis Intervention Training Programs	Organization Name	Website
Calm Every Storm, Crisis Intervention Training	Crisis Consultant Group, LLC.	crisisconsultantgroup.com
Management of Aggressive Behavior (MOAB)	MOAB Training International, Inc.	moabtraining.com
Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® Program	Crisis Prevention Institute	crisisprevention.com
Oregon Intervention System (OIS)	Alternative Service, Inc Oregon	ois.asioregon.org
PMT	PMT Associates, Inc.	pmtassociates.net
Pro-ACT®	Pro-ACT, Inc.	proacttraining.com
Professional Crisis Management	Professional Crisis Management Association	pcma.com
Response	Response Training Program LLC	responsetrainings.com
Right Response	Service Alternatives Training Institute	rightresponse.org
Safe and Positive Approaches®	Devereux	devereux.org
Safe Crisis Management	JKM Training Incorporated	jkmtraining.com
Safe Prevention Principle and Techniques	JIREH Training and Consulting LLC	jirehtraining.com
Safety-Care	QBS, Inc.	qbscompanies.com
Satori Alternatives to Managing Aggression (SAMA)	Satori Learning Designs, Inc.	mandtsystem.com
The Mandt System	The Mandt System, Inc.	mandtsystem.com
Therapeutic Aggression Control Techniques (TACT2)	SBP Consulting, Inc.	tact2.com
Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI)	Residential Child Care Project, Cornell Univ.	rccp.cornell.edu/tcimainpage.html

De-escalation Training Programs Vary

	Total Basic Training	General Information/	Dangers & Risks	Crisis De-escalation	Restraint Procedures	Monitoring Procedures	Debriefing & Follow-up	Seclusion %	Other %	Total %
	Time	Definitions %		%	%	%	%	70	/0	70
Training Program Name										
Calm Every Storm	16 hrs	5	5	55	15	5	5	5	5	100
MOAB	6-8 hrs	20	15	20	20	10	5	5	5	100
Nonviolent Crisis										
Intervention® program	14 hrs	20	5	35	25	5	10	0	0	100
OIS	12 hrs	15	10	25	15	2	2	2	29	100
PMT	8 hrs	15	10	40	20	5	5	5	0	100
Pro-ACT®	20 hrs	5	4	60	8	7.5	7.5	3	5	100
Professional Crisis										
Management	14 hrs	10	5	30	50	0	5	0	0	100
Response	12 hrs	4	6	58	12	4	4	0	12	100
	5-14 hrs	2	2	31	30	5	5	0	25	100
Safe & Positive Approaches®	14 hrs	5	7	34	18	3.5	3.5	0	29	100
Safe Crisis Management	18 hrs	5	5	45	30	5	10	0	0	100
Safe Prevention Principles and										
Techniques	16-20 hrs	10	12	38	15	5	15	5	0	100
Safety-Care	12 hrs	5	5	25	20	5	5	0	35	100
SAMA	16 hrs	1	2	40	20	1	1	0	35	100
The Mandt System®	19 hrs	7	8	58	12	7	7	1	0	100
TACT2	18-20 hrs	10	2.5	50	30	2.5	2.5	2.5	0	100
TCI	28-32 hrs	5	5	50	25	5	10	0	0	100

School Administrators should Understand Level of Permissible Force (3 Prong Test)

- Freeman v. Gore (2007) provides law enforcement officers the authority to use force to accomplish lawful objectives, such as detention and arrest.
- However, the level of permissible force that can be used was established through Supreme Court ruling Graham v. Connor (1989).
- Graham case established 3-prong test which mandates law enforcement officers take into account
 - 1. Severity of the crime committed
 - 2. Level of threat to the safety of the public or officer
 - 3. Level of resistance or attempt to escape

SRO Training Resources

SRO Training Programs	World Wide Web Link
NASRO	https://nasro.org/training/nasro-training-courses/
COPS Fact Sheet	https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2014_CHP-SRO-FactSheet3_092613.pdf
TN Dept. of Ed. Recommended Standards for Eligibility, Qualifications and Training of School Resource Officers	https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/safety/safe_sch/ safe_sch_sro_standards.pdf
SC Criminal Justice Academy	http://ftpcontent4.worldnow.com/wmbf/pdf/SRO%20Syllabus%202015.pdf http://sccja.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx http://ftpcontent4.worldnow.com/wmbf/pdf/Training%20Courses%20NASRO.pdf

 Richland County, SC
 High school girl seated in her desk was physically assaulted by SRO for being noncompliant, and refusing to give up her cell phone (Ford, Bothelo, & Conlon, 2015).

Additional Resources

Data-Drive Evaluation	World Wide Web Link
The School Discipline Consensus Report: Strategies from the Field to Keep Students Engaged in School and Out of the Juvenile Justice System	https://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/The_School_Discipline_Consensus_Report.pdf
PA DOE	http://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/K-12/Safe%20Schools/Safe%20Schools%20Targeted%20Grants/2017-2018/2017-2018%20Safe%20Schools%20Initiative%20-%20Municipality%20SRO%20-%20RFA.pdf
WV PRO Program	http://djcs.wv.gov/grant-programs/pro/Documents/PRO%20Guidelines%2017-18.pdf http://www.wvcpd.org/images/schoolprobrochuresmall.pdf
WI DPI School Resource Officers: The Use of School Resource Officers	https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/safe-schools/school-resource-officers https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sspw/pdf/srobestpractices.pdf
General Resources	World Wide Web Link
2016 US DOE Dear Colleague Letter Role of SROs in PK-12 Schools	https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/files/ed-letter-on-sros-in-schools-sept-8-2016.pdf
US DOE/DOJ SECURE Implementation Rubrics	https://www2.ed.gov/documents/press-releases/secure-policy.pdf https://www2.ed.gov/documents/press-releases/secure-implementation.pdf
US DOE School Climate and Discipline	https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/school-discipline/index.html
National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments	https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/

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