School-Based Arrest Task Force Purpose Statement:
The School-Based Arrest task force focus is to reduce rates of in-school arrests and exclusionary discipline while promoting fair and equitable treatment.

- Welcome and Introductions
  - Present: Vince Furlong, Shannan Garcia, Deputy Chief Gonzalez, Lt. Charles Ott, Jonathan Santo, PhD, Karla Dush, Debora Faga

- Activity
  - Update on School-Based Arrests – Deputy Chief Gonzalez
    - Reviewed PowerPoint presentation (attached)
    - Every school district and principal is just a little bit different, so each school is “policed” accordingly
    - Back in 2015 a group went to Georgetown to learn more about best practices
    - Training is key to both the police force and schools
      - NASRO and advanced NASRO training
      - Teen Brain training has been one of the most important training pieces for the SROs
    - Use common sense and discretion and work with the school district
    - Omaha SRO Counts: Misdemeanors from the 2015/16 school year to the 2018/2019 school year, there has been a 91% decrease
    - Omaha SRO Counts: Felonies from the 2015/16 school year compared to the 2018/19 school year: there has been a decrease of 27%
    - Omaha SRO Counts: Street Releases have continued to decline
    - Received a Federal grant for a part-time school safety coordinator and school safety equipment

Mission Statement:
Across Douglas County, our vision is a comprehensive, coordinated, and community-wide approach to juvenile services that eliminates the need for youth involvement with our justice system while maintaining public safety.

For all youth who do enter our justice system, our goals are to provide effective, compassionate, and individualized support that empowers youth and their families to succeed and to build an environment of mutual trust and accountability.
Douglas County Threat Advisory Team is a multi-disciplinary team looking at best practices
- Every superintendent for every school district in Douglas County is on board
- Threat assessment and related topics training
- Working with Boys Town
- Have been up and running for about 4 weeks and have over 130 tips so far
- This project will, hopefully, as it continues to grow end up being state wide
- Have developed the Safe2Help Nebraska Anonymous Reporting System

○ Discuss Taskforce Purpose
  - Has this task force come full circle; do we need to switch directions
  - Maybe look at working more on the prevention side or possibly look at suspensions; would we want to partner with the Prevention Work Group?
  - What direction would we want to go if we changed gears
  - Would we want to meet quarterly instead of monthly just to keep tabs on the arrest rates
  - Would love to take a look at 5 comparable cities to see how we stack up
  - Without information/data from the schools, it is difficult to really tell what we are dealing with and it is really hard to get that information

○ Follow Up
  - A question we should have asked but didn’t, if in the 2019 fall semester there were 19 incidents, were those incidents all different people or several people having multiple incidents. Can we find out?
  - Jonathan is going to come up with 5 comparable cities we would want to look at; then we will ask Deputy Chief Gonzalez if he could put us in touch with the correct persons on those cities to try to get their information for comparison

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• This task force will reconvene in June and look at the numbers from the 2020 Spring semester to see if numbers continued to go down or fluctuated differently

• Feedback Survey – Handed out

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, June 23rd, at the UNO Community Engagement Center, Room 221

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OPD School Resource Officer and School Safety Overview

Deputy Chief Greg Gonzalez
Omaha Police School Resource Officers

- 12 High Schools
- 19 Middle Schools
- 4 School Districts
- Omaha Public Schools: *53,194 total students
- Millard Public Schools: *24,104 total students
- Elkhorn Public Schools: *9,857 total students
- District 66: *5,942 total students

*Data from the Nebraska Department of Education: [www.ode.state.ne.us](http://www.ode.state.ne.us)
The Role of SROs

Omaha World Herald article: “Omaha Rethinks the Role Police Should Play in City’s Schools” (Erin Duffy, 10/8/2014)

Issues:
- Call for balance between school safety and criminalizing juvenile behavior
- SROs as school disciplinarians versus law enforcement
- Labeling of youth
- Pipeline to Prison
Omaha SRO Counts: Misdemeanors

2015/16 School Year compared to the 2018/19 School Year:

Decrease of 91%
Omaha SRO Counts: Felonies

2015/16 School Year compared to the 2018/19 School Year:

Decrease of 27%
Omaha SRO Counts: Street Releases

Note: This data not collected prior to 2017/18 School Year.
Omaha SRO Counts: Marijuana < 1 ounce

Note: This data not collected prior to 2017/18 School Year
Omaha SRO Counts: Misdemeanors by Type – Recent Data

Misdemeanor Assaults:
- Decreased 52% in 2018/2019 school year compared to 2017/2018 school year

Disorderly Conduct
- Decreased 53% in 2018/2019 school year compared to 2017/2018 school year

Other Misdemeanors
- Decreased 76% in 2018/2019 school year compared to 2017/2018 school year
Douglas County Threat Advisory Team

- Multi-Disciplinary Team = Best Practices
- Research indicates:
  - NO profile for perpetrators of targeted school violence
  - Red flags and signs almost always exist PRIOR to violent acts
- Includes: School district administration, law enforcement, mental health experts, juvenile justice system professionals, other school-safety stakeholders
- Regular meetings
- Threat Assessment and related topics training
- Development of the Safe2Help Nebraska Anonymous Reporting System
Safe2Help Nebraska Anonymous Reporting System

- Implemented Jan. 2020
- Tip reporting via 1) App, 2) web site, 3) phone
  - www.safe2helpne.org
  - 531-299-SAFE (7233)
- Safe2Help NE Fusion Center operated 24/7 by Boys Town trained counselors
- Top three reported student concerns since implementation:
  - Bullying (includes cyber-bullying)
  - Suicide
  - Drugs
Thank You

Deputy Chief Greg Gonzalez
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