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December 21, 2016

The Honorable Larry Hogan  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Thomas V. Miller, Jr.  
H-107 State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
H-101 State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Maryland Center for School Safety Annual Report (MSAR #9610)

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller and Speaker Busch:

In accordance with the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland § 7-1505 as enacted by HB 453 of 2013, the Maryland Center for School Safety (hereafter referred to as the Center) is submitting its annual report to the Governor and General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article. The Governing Board is providing this report which includes a list of activities of the Center and an update on its current status and its effectiveness.

#### **Background**

The Maryland Center for School Safety was established as an independent unit of State Government by the General Assembly in 2013 under House Bill 453 and approved by Governor O'Malley on May 2, 2013. A Center Governing Board was created to develop an implementation plan to phase in establishment and operation of the Center; provide general oversight and direction to the Center; and approve the annual budget for the Center. Dr. Lillian M. Lowery, State Superintendent of Schools, was appointed as the first Governing Board Chair by the Governor and retained this position until her resignation as State Superintendent in September 2015. Dr. Jack R. Smith was appointed Interim State Superintendent of Schools on September 14, 2015 and as such became the Center Governing Board Chair.

After Dr. Jack R. Smith resigned to become the Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools, Dr. Karen B. Salmon was named as the State Superintendent of Schools effective July 01, 2016 and now serves as the Center's Governing Board Chair.

An annual budget of \$500,000 is set via Chapter 372, Acts of 2013. The Center's Executive Director develops operational priorities and a budget for presentation to the Governing Board for consideration and approval.

As such, the Governing Board reviews and approves the Center's budget. Although, the Center is an independent unit of State Government it comes under the operational and fiscal arm of the Maryland State Police (MSP). The Center's Governing Board has the legislative mandate and requirement to approve the budget while Maryland State Police is where the operational funds rest and pass through. A separate budget account within the Maryland State Police has been created to track Center expenditures.

On November 18, 2013, the Center became operational with the hiring of Mr. Edward A. Clarke as the Executive Director and is located at the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC), the State's Fusion Center. The Center is the only School Safety Center in the country that is co-located within a State Fusion Center.

The Center collaborates and works with all local school systems in the State, law enforcement agencies, state and local government, private schools, community organizations, parents, and other stakeholders to provide a comprehensive and coordinated approach to school safety, including disseminating information on best practices, providing training and technical assistance, and gathering meaningful data on school safety issues.

In addition, the Center serves as a safe school information and best practices clearinghouse for stakeholders of up-to-date, research-based, and data-driven information on effective strategies for creating and maintaining safe schools as well as violence prevention.

The sections that follow describe key activities and accomplishments of the Maryland Center for School Safety during this past year.

### **Center Governing Board Meetings**

The Governing Board held two meetings during 2016, with a third meeting scheduled for December 20, 2016 to discuss the Center's operations and approve action items and meeting notes. In addition, Center email updates were provided to Governing Board members as well as requests for approval pertaining to key Center operations and action items.

On April 13, 2016, the Governing Board held its first meeting of the year. Mr. Clarke provided an update as to 2015 highlights and accomplishments. In addition, Center goals and objectives, staff positions, an overview of the Center's 2016 operating budget and approval process, website development, school safety training, and a pilot School Resource Officer (SRO) and School Administrator training initiative for three school districts were discussed.

The Governing Board held its second meeting on September 20, 2016 and Mr. Clarke introduced Dr. Karen B. Salmon as the new Center Governing Board Chair. Dr. Salmon provided an

overview of her vision of school safety and security and how the Center can work with all stakeholders to ensure there is a comprehensive and coordinated approach to school safety across the State of Maryland.

Mr. Clarke provided an update as to Center activities and progress, status of staff hiring, additional work with the Baltimore City Public School Police Force, and the summer school safety conference. In addition, the FY 2017 operating budget was presented and approved by Board members.

The third Governing Board meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2016. Mr. Clarke is slated to provide an update as to Center activities and progress throughout the current year, status of the child abuse internal administrative investigation performed by the Center at the request of the Chief Executive Officer for Prince George's County Public Schools, future trainings and conferences, website update, and working collaborations with Safe and Sound Schools, Xero Associates, and the Maryland Fire Rescue Institute.

#### **Center Staff Positions**

The Center is currently working with MSP Human Resources to re-advertise the position of Administrative Officer II, School Prevention/Intervention Administrator in early 2017.

The Center has identified the need for both a Deputy Director and a combination School Safety Analyst/Social Media Assistant, and is also working with MSP Human Resources on creation of job descriptions for advertisement in early 2017. These needed positions were approved by the Governing Board for full-funding and hiring.

The Center continues to work with the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP) as to a potential partnership with a local police department to have a School Resource Officer assigned to the Center.

#### **Center Website**

The Center is in the final stages of re-tooling and launching its comprehensive, dynamic, and interactive website for a variety of stakeholders to include but not limited to public and private school administrators, staff, and students, school security staff, parents, school resource officers, law enforcement officers, parents, community organizations, higher education staff and students, and state and local government.

Currently, the website has been transferred to the on-site servers and it is being tested for technical compatibilities, while final updates/revisions are being completed. It is anticipated all outstanding issues will be completed expeditiously for a projected "Live launch" of the website in early 2017.

The website contains a searchable database of definitive research, books, videos, white papers, speakers, websites, training opportunities, and other school safety resources.

The Governing Board has approved the Center to operate the website under two domain names: [www.SafeSchoolMD.org](http://www.SafeSchoolMD.org) and [www.MCFSS.maryland.gov](http://www.MCFSS.maryland.gov).

### **School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Partnerships**

Mr. Clarke and Mr. Pignataro continue to proactively develop and enhance collaborative partnerships with various educational and governmental entities, local school systems, private schools, public safety entities, school safety centers, and professional organizations as well as with state, county, municipal, and federal law enforcement in order to enhance school safety and emergency preparedness for schools throughout the State. Outlined below is a summary of those partnerships and key accomplishments.

#### *Archdiocese of Baltimore (ADB)*

- The Center provided technical assistance and training to a number of ADB school administrators and staff in the area of school safety, incident command, and active assailant.
- Mr. Pignataro has conducted school safety/emergency preparedness site surveys at five (5) ADB schools to include observation and finding reports.
- Mr. Pignataro, who is a certified instructor, provided First Aid, CPR, and AED training to forty (40) staff members at an ADB school to enhance their ability to respond and address a critical school emergency.
- The ADB Risk Manager participates in the weekly school safety conference calls.

#### *Association of Independent Maryland & DC Schools (AIMS)*

- The Center continues to dialogue with AIMS to meet and address the needs of private schools in the area of school safety, emergency preparedness, and training.
- The Center continues to provide technical assistance and training in the areas of school safety, emergency preparedness, and incident command system to private schools including the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the IVYMOUNT School (which provides quality educational programs and therapeutic services to students with special needs from 4 to 21 years of age and is located in Montgomery County).
- The Center is assisting AIMS with the establishment of a working private school safety and security consortium to facilitate exchange of information and training.

#### *Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP)*

- The Center continues to assist and work GOCCP in the areas of school safety, emergency preparedness, human trafficking, opiate/substance abuse education, and utilization of law enforcement grant resources. Discussions continue as to potential grant funding for an SRO to be assigned to the Center.
- The Center and GOCCP jointly developed a school safety survey that was provided to school safety practitioners from across the State. A follow-up meeting/conference call was held to discuss the survey outcomes and develop criteria for the 2017 GOCCP School Safety Grant opportunity.

*Governor's Office of Homeland Security*

- A partnership has been established with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security to share timely information as to critical school safety incidents or concerns.
- Mr. Clarke continues to inform Director Landon regarding significant school safety incidents, issues, and concerns at the local, state, and national level.

*Lieutenant Governor's Heroin & Opioid Emergency Task Force*

- The Center in concert with representatives of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) continue to support the charge and recommendations of the Task Force by assisting local school systems, private schools, and greater school community in promoting and delivering educational, prevention, and intervention learning opportunities and strategies for students, school staff, and parents.
- The Center will continue to develop and implement substance abuse education, prevention, and intervention strategies, resources, and trainings in order to provide the same to school systems, private schools, and communities impacted by substance abuse.

*Local School Systems Safety and Security Directors*

- The Center continues the partnership and collaboration with the school safety and security directors from the twenty-four (24) local school systems as well as private school safety and security directors and/or officials to regularly share information on school safety, emergency preparedness, school emergency plans and drills, violence prevention, and other issues impacting safe school operations.
- Regular meetings are held to discuss key issues and concerns regarding school safety.
- The Center sends situational alerts and information pertaining to critical school safety issues via email and other modes of communication.
- The Center/School Safety and Security Directors Advisory Council continues to function.
- Mr. Clarke and Mr. Pignataro continue to conduct both public and private school site visits and individual meetings with school safety and security directors and other school safety officials across the State.
- The Center established a weekly conference call last year following the Paris terrorist attacks, among the local school systems safety and security directors, risk managers, private school safety and security officials, school resource officers, law enforcement officials, and local and state-level prosecutors (who are assigned to support safe schools) to discuss school safety concerns. The call includes an update from the Executive Director of MCAC and representatives from the Washington Regional Threat Analysis Center (WRTAC), the Washington, DC Fusion Center as to potential terrorist threats abroad and within the U.S. and a roundtable discussion as to school safety issues or concerns as well as best practices.



The purpose of the call is to provide timely and accurate information regarding potential terrorist threats and other school safety concerns that impact schools across the State of Maryland. A roll call of local school systems and private schools is held to discuss critical school and community safety issues that impact safe school operations. To date, with the exception of holidays and school system breaks, these weekly conference calls continue and have been well received by all who participate.

There are in excess of one hundred ninety (190) school safety practitioners who receive the school safety conference call Agenda and summary notes.

Some of the critical school safety issues that have been addressed during the conference calls were the rash of school robo-call bomb threats that began in January of 2016, which significantly impacted schools across the State and throughout the country. During this time, on-going briefings to include law enforcement participation, were conducted to share relevant information and to discuss best response strategies.

Another critical school safety issue that was addressed during the conference calls were the rash of social media "Creepy Clown threats that began in October 2016, which also significantly impacted schools throughout the State and country. These calls also included law enforcement participation.

#### *Local School Systems Superintendents*

The Center shares critical school safety information and concerns with all twenty-four (24) local school Superintendents through the State Superintendent of Schools Office. In addition, the Center has provided technical assistance and support to various Superintendents and local school systems based upon requests.

#### *Baltimore City Public Schools*

- The Center continues its collaboration and partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools and the Baltimore City School Police Force (BCSPF) to enhance safety and security for students, staff, and parents.
- In March of 2015, the Center was officially requested by the Baltimore City Public Schools, Chief Executive Officer, to conduct a two-phase operational assessment of the BCSPF to determine ways to enhance school safety service to schools and students. The request was within the operational scope and legislative mission of the Center and was approved by the Center Governing Board Chair/Board members.

The assessment was comprehensive in nature and included site visits to both the Miami-Dade School Police Department and Palm Beach County School District Police Department to identify best practices from both Departments in the area of school community policing and safe school operations. Mr. Clarke also met with a focus group of school Principals to discuss various issues of school safety and school police operations.

The assessment concluded with a detailed report to include school safety and community policing recommendations that was submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of the Baltimore City Public Schools in March of 2016.

- BCSPF officers and supervisors will be participating in the United States Department of Justice, The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (DOJ/COPS) funded Basic School Resource Officer Pilot training project as the third agency within the State of Maryland.
- Mr. Clarke and Mr. Pignataro both serve on the BCSPF School Safety Advisory Board and attend regular meetings.
- The Center coordinated and facilitated training for BCSPF in the areas of youth mental health, conflict resolution, and peer mediation.

#### Dorchester County Public Schools

- Mr. Clarke attended and participated in the Superintendent's School Safety Advisory Group meeting with local law enforcement and fire rescue leaders.
- Mr. Pignataro, a certified instructor, provided first aid, CPR, and AED training to first year culinary arts students as part of their safety in the commercial kitchen training program.

#### Prince George's County Public Schools

- The Center was officially requested by the Prince George's County Public Schools, Chief Executive Officer, to conduct an independent internal administrative investigation into allegations of child/sex abuse surrounding a former school system employee and school volunteer to determine if school staff had knowledge of the incident and if they failed to report any suspected abuse to authorities.

A state-wide investigative team of subject matter experts was formed to conduct the investigation. The investigative team consisted of the following school safety experts:

- Mr. Edward A. Clarke, Investigative Team Leader and Coordinator
- Mr. Doyle Batten, Supervisor of School Security, Anne Arundel County Public Schools
- Mr. Kevin Burnett, Sr., Security Coordinator Howard County Public Schools
- Dr. Michael L. Ford, School Safety Specialist Maryland State Department of Education – now employed with Baltimore County Public Schools
- Dr. Deborah D. Nelson, NCSP Maryland State Department of Education
- Mr. Joseph Pignataro, Administrator II, School Safety/Emergency Preparedness MCFSS
- Ms. Kimberly H. Roof, Director of Student Services Calvert County Public Schools
- Mr. Andrew J. Turner, III, Supervisor for Safe and Orderly Schools Wicomico County Public Schools

The investigative team conducted a comprehensive and thorough investigation which resulted in a report of observations, findings, and school safety enhancement recommendations that was provided to the Chief Executive Officer.

- The Center has continued its partnership with Prince George's County Public Schools newly created Homeland Security Academy to assist with curriculum development and classroom presentations. Mr. Clarke serves as the Chair of the advisory committee.

#### Queen Anne's County Public Schools

- The Center provided emergency preparedness training and a tabletop exercise to the Queen Anne's County Public Schools Superintendent, the senior leadership team, principals, and both law enforcement and fire rescue officers/executives to enhance their emergency preparedness and response management skills.

#### Somerset County Public Schools

- The Center assisted in the development of emergency preparedness training and co-facilitated a tabletop exercise for members of the school system's leadership team, principals, and both law enforcement and fire rescue officers/executives to enhance their emergency preparedness and response management skills.

#### St. Mary's County Public Schools

- The Center assisted the St. Mary's County Public School System with evaluation of their full-scale Active Shooter/Assailant exercise with law enforcement and fire rescue personnel. In addition, the Center provided back-to-school emergency preparedness training to school psychologists, counselors, and pupil personnel workers.

#### Worcester County Public Schools

- The Center participated in a critical incident debriefing with the senior leadership team of the Worcester County Public Schools, county officials, both law enforcement and fire rescue officers/executives, and emergency management personnel regarding the volume of school robo-call bomb threats directed at the school system. An overview was provided by members of the Center as to the impact of robo-call bomb threats to schools across the State as well as response measures and strategies.
- The Center participated in a back-to-school emergency preparedness training and tabletop exercise for the Superintendent, senior leadership team, principals, both law enforcement and fire rescue officers/executives, and emergency management personnel. Members of the Center also served as a tabletop exercise evaluator and provided constructive observations and related best practice responses.

#### *Maryland Active Assailant Incident Response Workgroup (MAAIRWG)*

- Mr. Clarke and Mr. Pignataro continue to participate on the MAAIRWG representing interests of the school safety community and will also be assisting with community awareness and outreach efforts pertaining to the Active Assailant Response Guidelines.

#### *Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE)*

- Mr. Clarke and Mr. Pignataro participate in MABE meetings with school safety and security directors to discuss issues of school safety and emergency preparedness.



- Meetings/email exchanges continue with MABE staff to discuss issues of school safety.

*Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC)*

- On-going meetings and discussions continue with MCAC staff as to school safety issues.
- School safety information is shared with all 24 school systems safety/security directors.
- Collaborative problem solving efforts continue among MCAC staff, law enforcement, and the Center in resolving critical school safety incidents to include identification of students in crisis to assist schools with providing mental health support.
- On-going participation with the MCAC MView Coordinator to continue the safety CCTV sharing initiative.
- The Center in collaboration with MCAC senior executive officers and MSP supervisors developed a state-wide school safety mechanism to document, evaluate, analyze, and monitor the multitude of school robo-call bomb threats that plagued schools across the State. This mechanism serves as a best practice to develop effective school bomb threat response measures and strategies.

*Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)*

- The Center in concert with MCAC and MEMA continues to utilize established school safety emergency notifications to notify school districts safety/security directors and identified law enforcement personnel of a critical school safety incident or concern in a timely manner.
- Representatives of MEMA are participating in the Center's weekly school safety conference calls.

*Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI)*

- The Center is partnering with MFRI in an effort to bring the "Stop the Bleed" training campaign from FEMA to educators and staff within schools across the State.
- Center and MFRI staff are collaborating on lesson plan and training material preparation to train "regional" local instructors, who may then train educators, staff and civilians in basic traumatic bleeding control.

*Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC)*

- The Center and MPCTC are engaged in discussions as to developing and administering a forty (40) hour comprehensive training course for SROs across the State.
- The Center working with MPCTC was able to obtain course approval for the DOJ/COPS Basic School Resource Officer Pilot training.

*Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)*

- Meetings and communications continue between the Center and MSDE staff on a regular basis to discuss school safety, emergency preparedness, school emergency plans, substance abuse, school discipline data, and student disability, mental health issues, and prevention/intervention efforts.

- The Center and MSDE are engaged in a human trafficking pilot training initiative for three local school systems to increase staff awareness of the signs and impact of human trafficking pertaining to students.
- Joint discussions continue to occur as to the development and delivery of school safety training for school staff and SRO's.
- Sharing of school safety information with all School Superintendents is provided via the State Superintendent of Schools Office.
- The Center in collaboration with MSDE again facilitated Maryland schools participation in The Great Shakeout Earthquake Drill held on October 20, 2016.

*Maryland State Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking*

- Mr. Clarke served as an adjunct member and supported the charge of the Workgroup by attending meetings, participating on the Compile Existing Information on Needs and Identifying Resources Subcommittee, and provided recommendations as to how schools and the school community can become more involved in promoting and delivering Human Trafficking educational, prevention, and intervention strategies for students, school staff, and parents.

*Mental Health Association of Maryland*

- Mr. Clarke has completed a 40 hour Youth Mental Health First Aid instructor's certification course offered by the Mental Health Association of Maryland.
- The Center in conjunction with the Mental Health Association of Maryland and MSDE will be providing Youth Mental Health First Aid training to SRO's, school administrators, and school staff from across the State in the upcoming year.
- The Center in collaboration the Mental Health Association of Maryland assisted in facilitating the training of BCSPF officers in Youth Mental Health First Aid.

*National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council (NCREPC)*

- Mr. Clarke and Mr. Pignataro continued to participate in the National Capital Region K-12 School Emergency Preparedness Seminars by providing training in the area of incident command and school safety for school administrators and school staff.

*Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)*

- Continued discussions occur with State Fire Marshal as to school safety, emergency preparedness, emergency drills, and life safety code requirements. The State Fire Marshal participates in the weekly school safety conference calls and also provides guidance and training to school staff and SRO's in the area of bomb threat detection and response management.

*Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM)*

- The Center shares critical information pertaining to school safety issues and concerns with the leadership team of PSSAM.

- Mr. Clarke and Mr. Engel, MCAC Executive Director, provided a comprehensive briefing to the leadership team regarding the nature and extent of robo-call bomb threats that plagued school systems across the State as well as various responses by schools. In addition, best protective measures and effective response strategies were shared.

#### *Safe and Sound Schools Foundation*

- The Safe and Sound Schools Foundation, co-founded by Michele Gay, a parent of a Sandy Hook victim and a past Maryland public school educator, received a grant from a Maryland based entity, to provide school safety training specifically within the State of Maryland. The Center is partnering with Michele Gay and the Foundation to bring regionalized school safety/emergency preparedness trainings to local school systems and law enforcement agencies within identified regions in the State in an effort to enhance school safety.
- Michele Gay and Daniel Jewiss, a school safety expert, both provided impactful presentations as to Sandy Hook tragedy during the Center's School Safety Summer Conference.

#### *State School Safety Centers Network*

- Mr. Clarke participates in monthly conference calls with other State Safety Center Directors to discuss school safety issues and best practices.

#### *U. S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS)*

- The Center continues its partnership with OSHS staff with discussions and email exchanges pertaining to school safety and emergency preparedness.
- Mr. Clarke continues to participate in national discussions and conferences pertaining to school safety and emergency preparedness issues.

#### *Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (VCSCS)*

- The Center and VCSCS continue their collaborative approach to sharing best practices, resources, and training opportunities regarding school safety and emergency preparedness.
- In a first of its kind collaboration in the nation, both State Safety Centers worked as partners, along with the Koshka Foundation to host a one day school safety training seminar, known as, "The Briefings". The seminar brought in survivors from high profile school shooting incidents as well as the former Principal at Columbine High School to discuss lessons learned and recovery strategies. School administrators, SRO's and school safety directors from both Maryland and Virginia attended this dynamic seminar to hear first-hand accounts of survivors as well as to network on mutual issues of concern.
- Mr. Clarke and Mr. Pignataro attended the VCSCS 2015 Summer Safety Conference.
- The VCSCS after participating in the Center's weekly school safety conference calls, replicated this information sharing measure and started monthly state-wide school

safety conference calls among educators and security personnel. Mr. Clarke and Mr. Pignataro participate in the monthly calls and provide an update as to school safety issues within Maryland.

*Xero Associates, Inc.*

- The Center continues to collaborate with Xero Associates, Inc. in the implementation of a FY2015 U.S. DOJ COPS Community Policing Development Collaborative Reform for Technical Assistance Grant to pilot a community policing training curriculum and tool kit for Maryland SRO's.

The three law enforcement agencies and local school systems participating in this innovative training are the: Wicomico County Sheriff's Department/Public Schools, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department/Public Schools and Baltimore City School Police/Public Schools.

**Community and Stakeholder Outreach**

Mr. Clarke and Mr. Pignataro continue to proactively provide outreach and partnership opportunities to various community and governmental entities, school districts, private schools, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders to inform them of the Center's Mission and to establish collaborative relationships related to school safety and emergency preparedness. Outlined below is a synopsis of outreach efforts to include presentations and training to the various entities.

- Archdiocese of Baltimore
- Drug Free Coalition of Queen Anne's County
- Governor's Office of Homeland Security
- Heroin Action Coalition of Montgomery County
- Many Voices for Smart Choices - Montgomery County Alliance to Prevent Youth Substance Abuse
- Maryland School Psychologist Association
- Montgomery County Keeping It SAFE: Under 21 Alcohol Prevention Coalition
- National Association of School Resource Officers and Maryland Association of School Recourse Officers
- Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland

**Center School Safety Conferences**

The Center developed and held three large school safety conferences during 2016, which are outlined below. The conferences were widely attended by school administrators, school safety and security directors, school security and support staff, state educational staff members, school resource officers, and law enforcement officers and executive officers.

**Gang Awareness, Prevention and Intervention Symposium**

February 24, 2016, College Park, Maryland

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The symposium was held at the University of Maryland, University College Campus, and brought together law enforcement, school administrators, counselors, and safety/security directors to enhance gang awareness, prevention and intervention strategies, along with outreach efforts by examining case studies regionally and nationally. A team of subject matter experts from across the country and locally presented relevant sessions during the symposium.

#### **The Briefings: Life After Tragedy**

April 18, 2016

A first of its kind collaboration in the nation between two State Safety Centers, The Briefings gave participants survivor perspectives from various school shooting incidents at Columbine, Virginia Tech, and Platte Canyon, Colorado. The presentations presented a unique insight into these school tragedies. This event was held in Northern Virginia to accommodate attendees from both Maryland and Virginia.

#### **Maryland Center for School Safety Summer Conference – *Prepare. Prevent. Achieve.***

August 8/9, 2016

The Center held its third annual School Safety Summer Conference which featured a dynamic two-day agenda. Key note sessions featured Ms. Michele Gay, co-founder of Safe and Sound Schools and a parent of a Sandy Hook victim and Mr. Daniel Jewiss, a law enforcement expert. Ms. Gay discussed the tragedy at Sandy Hook from a parents perspective and Mr. Jewiss presented a first-hand law enforcement analysis and perspective. These presentations were extremely impactful and received outstanding accolades.

Efforts are in place to develop various regionalized school safety trainings and the 2017 School Safety Summer Conference.

#### **School Safety Training and Conferences Attended**

Mr. Clarke and Mr. Pignataro attended various school safety trainings and conferences to enhance their knowledge of school safety, emergency preparedness, violence prevention, threat assessment, school climate and culture, and active shooter situations. Outlined below is a summary of the training and conferences.

- Maryland Human Trafficking Training, Governor's Office of Crime Control and the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Maryland
- Basic Threat Assessment Training, Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety
- School Safety Summer Conference, Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Gang Prevention and Intervention Conference
- National Association of School Resource Officers Conference

#### **Summary**

The Governing Board and Center have had a very productive year. Building on the Center's accomplishments, the Governing Board and Center will continue to focus on their legislative mandate to ensure our schools throughout the State remain a safe place to obtain a high quality education. In 2017, the Maryland Center for School Safety with the addition of staff will be able



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to expand its base of operations and provide additional school safety and emergency management services and technical assistance to both public and private schools.

Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact me or Edward A. Clarke, Center's Executive Director, by email at [edward.clarke@mcac.maryland.gov](mailto:edward.clarke@mcac.maryland.gov) or (301) 370-3497.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.", written in a cursive style.

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

c: Mr. Edward A. Clarke