

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Cabinet Affairs

Series/Staff Member: Thurgood Marshall Jr

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19083

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Columbine High School Shooting [2]

Stack:

S

Row:

25

Section:

2

Shelf:

6

Position:

2



Kris M Balderston

04/26/99 06:11:02 PM



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP@EOP, Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Littleton events

Bruce

I understand that you are putting together the memo on how to approach the Colorado situation. I mentioned this during the 2 pm meeting but I spoke to James Lee Witt this am to get his sense of how to deal with the families, etc in Colorado. As you know, he has a very good sense of how to deal with families in these tragic situations.

He believed that the President should quietly go out to CO late this week or on the weekend to quietly meet with the families, law enforcement officials and the student body. If anything is open to the press, he believes it should be the mtg with the student body. He does not think we should mix this with policy initiatives or town halls on youth violence. Judging from my chats with DOJ, I think she would agree with the issue of mixing messages.

Also the school is holding their commencement on May 22. If we do not go, I think we could conceivably announce that we will speak at the commencement (if they invite us).

We continue to hold our daily calls with the agencies (HHS, Ed, FEMA, DOJ, and Treasury). They are currently planning the long term assistance needs of the local jurisdiction. They are quietly sending a team out tomorrow to do an inventory of needs.

Finally, James Lee spoke to the AG about expanding an existing FEMA/DOJ "violence and preparedness" training program to include the education community. They both agreed that this would be a good idea. If you are interested, we can get you more info.

Message Sent To:

Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP
Karin Kullman/OPD/EOP@EOP
Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP
Loretta M. Ucelli/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP

**PRESIDENT CLINTON:
AN OPEN DIALOGUE ON PREVENTING SCHOOL VIOLENCE**

April 22, 1999

"I think it's important that, all over America, students and teachers have a chance to discuss their feelings about this. We are working to reach out to the country...and to do everything we can to minimize the chance that anything like this will happen again."

President Bill Clinton
April 22, 1999

Today, in Alexandria, Virginia, President Clinton spoke with students and faculty of T.C. Williams High School about the tragedy in Littleton, Colorado. The discussion was broadcast live into 12,000 schools nationwide by Channel 1, a classroom cable network. The President talked about ways of preventing school violence, such as the school's mediation program and other methods of conflict resolution.

Reassuring Americans in the Wake of Tragedy. The President reassured students and faculty that, in spite of the Littleton tragedy and the resulting concerns of students and parents, America's schools are still among the safest place for children to be. Only about 10% of public schools report serious or violent crimes to their local police departments.

Asking Ourselves Difficult Questions. The President urged all Americans to examine what our responsibilities as individuals and as a society are in the cause and prevention of tragedies like the one in Colorado. He discussed the role of schools, parents, students, the government, and communities in helping to diminish acts of violence.

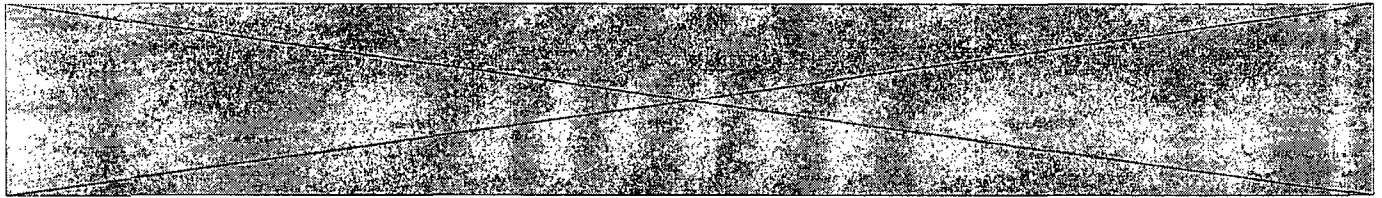
Encouraging Respect for Others. The President urged students to appreciate America's diversity and support others who may feel disrespected or discriminated against: The tragedy, he said, is an opportunity for us to learn to "lift other people up, and recognize the inherent dignity and worth of all individuals and all ethnic, religious and cultural groups."

Working to Keep Schools and Communities Safe. School safety continues to be a priority, and over the past few years, the Administration has taken the following measures to ensure that America's schools remain safe:

- * Policies for zero tolerance for guns and drugs;
- * Putting new community police officers in schools where they are needed;
- * Supporting more counselors in schools;
- * Encouraging more after-school, mentoring, and conflict resolution programs; and
- * Assistance in implementing uniform or dress code policies.

Last year's White House Conference on School Safety provided a valuable opportunity for Americans to learn ways to improve the safety of their schools and communities. At the Conference, the President issued an Annual Report on School Safety which was sent to every school in the nation, and was intended to give parents, principals, and policy makers an accurate, yearly snapshot of school crime and steps they can take to make their schools safer.

Responding to the Early Warning Signs of Troubled Youth. In August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. The guide provides schools and communities with information on how to identify the early warning signs and take steps to prevent and respond to school violence. Every school in the nation received a copy, and additional copies may be obtained through the Department of Education website.



For Immediate Release: April 22, 1999

Contact: Julie Green (202) 401-3026

**Remarks as prepared for delivery by
U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley
regarding school safety and the tragedy at Columbine High School**

Good afternoon. Today is a day of grief and suffering for all Americans in light of the great tragedy that has occurred in Littleton, Colorado.

Like all Americans I extend my prayers to the many, many families in Littleton who are suffering today.

As the father of 4 children and the grandfather of 10 children, my heart goes out to each and every one of these families and to the teachers, faculty and staff at Columbine High School.

This tragedy represents a new scale and level of school violence that we have never seen before. And it says something about the easy ability of young people to get access to guns. If this type of tragedy doesn't bring about a public outcry I don't know what will.

My message to every gun owner in America is very direct -- lock up your guns today. Think hard about what has just happened and please don't assume anything. This is not an issue of being pro-gun or anti-gun. The issue here is the safety of children. Time and again, the young people who have caused these types of tragedies have been able to get access to guns. America needs to realize that kids and unsupervised gun use do not mix.

My message to parents is to reach out to your children and listen to them. We have to do everything we can to connect even to the most angry and alienated young person. Young people

who are cut off and isolated can be, as we have seen, deeply disconnected.

I urge parents to slow down their lives. As a society we must make much more of an effort to help families, to make sure that there is some responsible adult in the life of every young person -- even the most alienated and angry young person.

My message to the young people of South Carolina and all across America is to think hard about what has happened because this concerns you and your friends. If you are worried and concerned about a friend who is becoming disconnected and isolated please contact an adult who. At the beginning of this school year, at the instruction of the president, a copy of the "Early Warning Guide" was sent to every school superintendent and principal in the country. I ask every principal and educator in South Carolina to take out a copy of this "Early Warning Guide" and read it again. This guide was written by a group of national experts and it is based on sound research.

The guide places a strong emphasis on prevention and gives educators and teachers a clear understanding of the 16 warning signs that can help school officials prevent tragedies similar to Littleton. This guide must be used in a responsible manner and schools must not use it to over-label and stereotype a few individual children. Our national experts, who have holding workshops all across the country, stand ready to assist you.

As you will note in the cover letter for this "Guide," which was signed by the Attorney General Janet Reno and myself, one of the the key insights of this document is that keeping children safe is a community wide effort. This is why we will be sending out an additional 100,000 copies to community groups, PTA's and PTO's, faith communities and other concerned citizens. There is no single answer to this type of tragedy and we should not look for one. Every level of society -- from community groups, to schools, to faith communities, state officials and national leaders -- can contribute to supporting families as they seek to raise their children safely.

I urge all concerned citizens to become involved in helping to make our schools safer. Copies of this "Guide" can be found on our website at www.ed.gov and are also available free of charge by calling 1-800-USA-LEARN.

In addition to the "Guide" other federal efforts to improve school safety include a new \$300 million comprehensive school violence prevention initiative, and a proposal to the Congress to establish "Project SERV" -- a \$12 million effort to help school districts that have to confront these types of tragedies.

I will be happy to answer any questions.

###



Sean P. O'Shea

04/22/99 10:37:21 AM



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Broadcast of President's Meeting with School Students



The President's visit to TC Williams High School will be broadcast live by Channel One, a classroom cable network, which will reach approximately 8 million high school students and over 500,000 educators.

Message Sent To: _____

Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
Barry J. Toiv/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joseph P. Lockhart/WHO/EOP@EOP
John Podesta/WHO/EOP@EOP
Douglas B. Sosnik/WHO/EOP@EOP
Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP
Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP@EOP
Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP
Stacie Spector/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP@EOP
Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sara M. Latham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lawrence J. Stein/WHO/EOP@EOP
Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
Janet Murguia/WHO/EOP@EOP
Laura A. Graham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Ron Klain/OVP@OVP
Monica M. Dixon/OVP@OVP
Trooper Sanders/OVP@OVP
Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP
Fred DuVal/WHO/EOP@EOP
Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP@EOP
Katharine Button/WHO/EOP@EOP
Heather M. Riley/WHO/EOP@EOP
William H. White Jr./WHO/EOP@EOP
Elizabeth R. Newman/WHO/EOP@EOP
Julia M. Payne/WHO/EOP@EOP
Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov
ann.harkins@usdoj.gov
james.johnson@do.treas.gov
bill_modzeleski@ed.gov
esummy@os.dhhs.gov
Jane.bullock@fema.gov @ inet
Ben_Tucker@ed.gov
Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP



Sean P. O'Shea

04/22/99 10:25:36 AM



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: UPDATE ON AGENCY EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF COLUMBINE SCHOOL SHOOTING



April 22, 1999
As of: 10:10am

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: KRIS BALDERSTON
SEAN P. O'SHEA

SUBJECT: Columbine School Shooting - Agency Efforts - UPDATES

The Department of Justice

The Attorney General arrived in Denver, Colorado last night. This morning she will get briefed by the Jefferson County Sheriffs' office, the District Attorney, and ATF and FBI agents involved in the Littleton incident. At 10:00am (Mountain Time), she will attend and speak at a community meeting at the "Light of the World" Catholic church. Additionally, she will meet with 15-20 victims' advocates who are working with family members and children to provide moral support. The AG will also meet with the Superintendent of Schools and the Principal of Columbine during the afternoon as well as those ATF agents who continue to assist in bomb sweeps in conjunction with local law enforcement officials. The AG will then have a Media Availability in the evening (Time TBD) before her departure at 6:30pm (Mountain Time).

Justice noted that they had approximately \$750,000 in immediate support through their Victims of Crime grants (more details are forthcoming; DOJ is working with DPC on this issue).

The Department of Education

DOEd reiterated the fact that federal counselors have still not been requested as local officials report their counselors have the incident under control locally. Money is being allocated to help assist in funding local counselors for the long run. 100,000 more copies of DOEd's Early Warning Guide (found at www.ed.gov) have been printed and are being distributed nationally.

The Department of Treasury

ATF officials continue to assist in the local law enforcement investigation along with bomb sweeps. It is believed that witnesses may be interviewed as early as today.

The Department of Health and Human Services

HHS reiterates that federal assistance, in the form of crisis counselors, has not been requested and they do not anticipate such a request for the short term effort. Fact sheets are being provided to the local mental health officials for their use.

Message Sent To:

Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
Barry J. Toiv/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joseph P. Lockhart/WHO/EOP@EOP
John Podesta/WHO/EOP@EOP
Douglas B. Sosnik/WHO/EOP@EOP
Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP
Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP@EOP
Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP
Stacie Spector/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP@EOP
Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sara M. Latham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lawrence J. Stein/WHO/EOP@EOP
Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
Janet Murguia/WHO/EOP@EOP
Laura A. Graham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Ron Klain/OVP@OVP
Monica M. Dixon/OVP@OVP
Trooper Sanders/OVP@OVP
Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP
Fred DuVal/WHO/EOP@EOP
Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP@EOP
Katharine Button/WHO/EOP@EOP
Heather M. Riley/WHO/EOP@EOP
William H. White Jr./WHO/EOP@EOP
Elizabeth R. Newman/WHO/EOP@EOP
Julia M. Payne/WHO/EOP@EOP
Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov
ann.harkins@usdoj.gov
james.johnson@do.treas.gov
bill_modzeleski@ed.gov
esummy@os.dhhs.gov
Jane.bullock@fema.gov @ inet
Ben_Tucker@ed.gov
Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP



Kris M Balderston

04/22/99 10:07:09 AM



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc: Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP@EOP, Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: School Safety Events and DOJ Money

We just completed the am agency call on the Littleton situation and DOJ reported that they are ready to pledge at least \$750,000 of their Victim Assistance Program to Littleton.

Jose/Elena - you may want to call DOJ (Ricki Seidman) to include this in the departure statement

Message Sent To:

Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP@EOP
Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP@EOP
Leanne A. Shimabukuro/OPD/EOP@EOP
Loretta M. Ucelli/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP
Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP
Stacie Spector/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP
Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP
Melissa B. Ratcliff/OVP@OVP



Sean P. O'Shea

04/21/99 06:39:20 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov @ inet, Ben_Tucker@ed.gov @ inet
cc: Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP, Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: Mrs. Gore School Safety Discussion

FYI

----- Forwarded by Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP on 04/21/99 06:39 PM -----



Trooper Sanders@OVP

04/21/99 06:37:41 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP, Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP, Tanya E. Martin/OPD/EOP@EOP, Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: Mrs. Gore School Safety Discussion

Mrs. Gore will lead a discussion on school safety issues at Nashua Senior High School during her trip to Nashua, New Hampshire tomorrow afternoon.



Sean P. O'Shea

04/21/99 07:21:23 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Greg.Frazier@usda.gov, satterfield-lee@dol.gov
cc: Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP, Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP, Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: FOR YOUR PRINCIPAL - SUMMARY DOCUMENT

April 21, 1999
As of: 7:20 PM

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR.
KRIS M. BALDERSTON

SUBJECT: Agency Efforts on behalf of Littleton, Colorado School Shootings

* Connotes new information

INCIDENT UPDATE

According to Sheriff Steve Davis, there are fifteen (15) confirmed fatalities; two of which include the suspects. Of the fifteen, eleven (11) are male and four (4) are female. One of the victims is reported to be an adult. In addition, thirty (30) explosive devices were found in the school, one suspect's vehicle in the school parking lot, and in the suspects' residence. Investigators will enter the school this morning and early afternoon to conduct a search and to take photos. After the photos and first search is complete, local officials will commence a major investigation involving agents from several jurisdictions. Sheriff Davis also reported that he will update the press every hour on the half hour. His last statement was at 10:30a.m.

AGENCY EFFORTS

The Department of Education

* The Department of Education reiterated their commitment toward helping to fund long term costs associated with counseling services for students and school officials.

Secretary Riley called the Jefferson County School Superintendent this morning to offer any

assistance to the community. Specifically, the Secretary outlined joint efforts between the Department of Education, Justice, and HHS to provide crisis counselors and any other assistance that is needed. Additionally, Secretary Riley and the Department of Education (DOEd) provided local officials with contact names and numbers for those officials seeking federal assistance. The DOEd has made the following contacts:

- William Molonoy, Chief State School Officer, Colorado: Judith Johnson called Mr. Molonoy and offered assistance; DOEd will follow-up this afternoon.
- Susan Goren, President, National Association of School Psychologists: Susan offered help of NASP in providing assistance to the school system.
- Jenelle Kruger, Safe and Drug Free Schools Program Coordinator, Colorado: State Education Agency: Assistance of SDFS Program was offered.
- Marleen Wong, Director of Mental Health, Los Angeles Public Schools: Marleen has been instrumental in helping various communities that have experienced crisis similar to Colorado. Marleen offered her help in this effort.
- Kathryn Thurman, Director, Office for Victims of Crime, Department of Justice. OVC and SDFS have joint agreement with National Office for Victims of Crime to form crisis response teams and send those teams where they are needed. Kathryn has been working with community victim advocates and feels that the community is very well prepared to deal with this crisis.

Throughout this afternoon, DOEd is in contact with the Superintendent of Jefferson County schools and find out what assistance is needed. DOEd can offer the following:

- Identification of persons who can provide crisis counseling assistance and payment to get those persons to Colorado.
- Identification of persons who have experienced similar tragedies to provide "hands on" help in days immediately following incident. We can pay for travel and per diem of these persons.
- Identification of persons who can help the school district plan a long-term recovery effort which DOEd is currently working on in Springfield, Oregon. DOEd will pay the costs of getting people to Colorado.
- Identification of Security Experts. Often after such a shooting a school district wants to do a thorough review of its school safety plans, policies, etc. DOEd can help identify a person(s) to conduct such a review and will pay costs of getting person to Colorado.

The Department of Treasury

* Treasury is sending two (2) chaplains and between 4-5 agents who have specific training and expertise with trauma situations and counseling for law enforcement personnel,

specifically ATF and police, and other first responders. These teams have been used during the Waco, Oklahoma City, and TWA crash incidents. These agents will provide peer support based on first hand knowledge and experience in dealing with the stresses that officials will feel immediately and long term. This team's expertise is also available to anyone else needing such counseling

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), 13 ATF investigators are on the scene in addition to two (2) canine handlers and two (2) explosive enforcement officers. ATF was asked by the County Sheriff to assist in clearing the scene of explosive devices and was concluded at 1:30am Denver time. Seven (7) destructive devices were found in the trunk of one suspect's vehicle and 12 small devices were found inside the school. ATF's crime scene mapping system has also been requested by the County Sheriff. ATF will also be involved in tracing firearms described as two (2) sawed-off shotguns, one handgun and one carbine. In addition, ATF will help canvass explosive licenses in an effort to determine who purchased explosives related to this incident. ATF will send a peer support team, including two chaplains, to provide services to the victims, witnesses and investigators.

The Department of Justice

Along with the ATF, FBI agents are on the ground providing technical assistance to local law enforcement officials. They are not active in the investigation as it is considered a local effort at this point. Additionally, these agents may provide added security to the local hospitals and funerals if requested and needed.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency

The FEMA State Director is contacting the local officials to assess needs in dealing with the ongoing community relations initiatives. FEMA officials involved in the Jonesboro incident have been put in contact with the county sheriff in Littleton. These FEMA personnel will provide guidance and expertise to those in Littleton. Two (2) FEMA Public Affairs officials will travel to Colorado to work with state and county officials.

The Department of Health and Human Services

* Services are being used quite heavily with hundreds of parents and students receiving counseling in various centers set up throughout the surrounding area. HHS expressed concern from officials in Colorado about the ripple effect on surrounding school students indirectly impacting students. School students in proximity to Columbine are expressing concerns by students with regard to their own safety in their schools. The short-term efforts seem to be proceeding well, but there is concern about long term funding issues with respect to counseling services. DOEd has expressed their commitment toward assisting in the long term efforts.

* The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): CMHS

(Center for Mental Health Services) has been in contact today with Fred Acosta, the Colorado State Disaster Mental Health Program Coordinator, to offer technical assistance if requested by the State. Currently, the state is requesting that counselors and assistance not be sent as they are concerned with the volume of response of numerous mental health professionals wanting to provide services.

HHS' Center for Mental Health Services has contacted the Colorado State Mental Health Director to offer assistance with crisis counseling if requested. In addition, the Surgeon General stands ready to provide assistance.

NOTE:

Secretary's Herman, Richardson and Glickman will be speaking to the Conference of Black Mayors tomorrow in Denver, Colorado.



Shootings..doc



Sean P. O'Shea

04/21/99 07:29:31 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Greg.Frazier@usda.gov, satterfield-lee@dol.gov, brooke.anderson@hq.doe.gov @ inet

cc: Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP, Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: GUIDANCE

The White House Communications group agreed the Cabinet members in Colorado should make low key remarks to National Conference of Black mayors however you should have three items to guide you: 1) president's remarks of last night, 2) president's remarks this morning, and 3) the summary memo of Cabinet activity to date.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1999

SCHOOL VIOLENCE DISCUSSION WITH STUDENTS

DATE: April 22, 1999
LOCATION: T.C. Williams High School
Alexandria, VA
BRIEFING TIME: 11:45am - 12:00pm
EVENT TIME: 12:30pm - 1:45pm
FROM: Bruce Reed, Thurgood Marshall, Jr.

I. PURPOSE

To have a discussion with high school students on the recent incident in Littleton, Colorado and on school safety issues.

II. BACKGROUND

You will participate in a discussion with 25 high school students enrolled in an Advanced Placement government class, student conflict mediators, and school faculty. This discussion will also be broadcast live into classrooms nationwide by *Channel 1*, a classroom cable network. The students in the A.P. Government class have been discussing the incident in Littleton, CO, and have specifically focused on: 1) whether this kind of event could happen at their own school; 2) what role the federal government can play in preventing school violence; 3) how young people get access to weapons and explosives; and 4) why the parents and friends of the suspects were unable to detect a problem before the violent incident occurred.

T.C. Williams High School, part of the Alexandria City Public School System, is a large, urban high school with approximately 1,800 students of numerous racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds. The students at the school come from more than 84 countries in the world and speak more than 56 languages. Last June, following the Springfield, Oregon school shooting, Attorney General Janet Reno and Secretary Richard Riley participated in a listening session on school safety with students at this high school.

Alexandria City Public Schools have placed a high priority on school safety and security in their district. Every school is equipped with a team of professionals, including a registered nurse, school psychologist, social worker, and guidance counselor, and also has

the support of a uniformed police officer serving as school resource officer. Four years ago, the Alexandria City Public Schools also established "zero tolerance" policies for weapons and drugs, which the school system credits for its subsequent decline in the number of incidents that could have resulted in suspensions. Dr. Herb Berg, Superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools, participated in a school safety event with you at the White House in March 1998, and discussed these steps the district is taking to ensure safe schools.

The Alexandria City Public Schools also has a conflict resolution/peer mediation program, which provides special training for students starting in seventh grade. Students are trained to listen to both sides of an issue and help guide their fellow students toward peaceful resolutions of their conflicts. The peer mediators that will participate in today's discussion currently participate in this volunteer program, and mediate the conflicts of other T.C. Williams students.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Briefing Participants:

Bruce Reed
Doug Sosnik
Loretta Ucelli
Kris Balderston
Lowell Weiss

Event Participants:

John Porter, Principal, T.C. Williams High School
Ellen Harmon, Teacher, T.C. Williams High School
Barbara Finney, Crisis Coordinator, T.C. Williams High School
25 High School Seniors enrolled in an A.P. Government Class
4 Peer Mediators/High School Seniors and Juniors

IV. PRESS PLAN

Pool Press. This discussion will also be broadcast live into classrooms nationwide by *Channel 1*, a classroom cable network which reaches 8 million middle and senior high school students and 500,000 educators.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- You will enter the Media Center, accompanied by John Porter, the principal of T.C. Williams High School, and will take your seat with the discussion participants.
- John Porter will make a brief statement and introduce you.
- You will make remarks and open a discussion with the students and faculty.
- You will close the discussion and depart the Media Center.
- You will proceed to the Auditorium, greet overflow students, and depart.

VI. REMARKS

To be provided by speechwriting.

VII. ATTACHMENT

-Administration Record on Promoting School Safety.

PROMOTING SCHOOL SAFETY, PREVENTING YOUTH VIOLENCE AND ENCOURAGING LEARNING

--The Clinton Administration Record --

MAKING OUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES SAFER AND DRUG-FREE

The White House Conference on School Safety. In October 1998, the President held the first ever White House Conference on School Safety to convene experts, parents, principals, students, law enforcement, and local leaders from communities that experienced school shootings to discuss broad issues of school safety and youth violence and share the wealth of information we have on these issues. The Conference provided an opportunity for Americans to learn more about how they can make their own schools and communities safer. Over 600 satellite sites across the country were able to participate in the Conference.

A New Federal Response for Violent Deaths in Schools. President Clinton has proposed a \$12 million School Emergency Response to Violence -- or Project SERV -- in his FY 2000 budget to help schools and local communities respond to school-related violent deaths, such as those that occurred last year in Jonesboro, Arkansas; Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; and Springfield, Oregon. Developed with input from local officials and educators in these and other communities, Project SERV will enable the federal government to assist local communities in much the same way FEMA assists in response to natural disasters.

Targeted Resources for Schools with Serious Crime Problems. To help give schools with serious crime problems the tools they need to put the security of our children first, the President announced a new \$65 million initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in schools -- and to train police, educators and other members of the community to help recognize the early warning signs of violence.

Reforms to Help Make All Schools Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free. At the White House Conference on School Safety, President Clinton announced the outline of his plan for a significant overhaul of the nearly \$600 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. Under the President's proposal, schools will be required to adopt rigorous, comprehensive school safety plans that include: tough, but fair, discipline policies; safe passage to and from schools; effective drug and violence policies and programs; annual school safety and drug use report cards; links to after school programs; efforts to involve parents; and crisis management plans.

A Community-Wide Response to School Safety and Youth Violence. To help communities throughout the country promote a coordinated, comprehensive response to school safety, the President launched a new Safe Schools -Healthy Students initiative designed to help 50 cities develop and implement community-wide school safety plans. Earlier this month, the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services announced that they will provide over \$180 million this year, and a total of \$380 million over three years through the Initiative for communities to fund comprehensive school safety plans that include anti-truancy initiatives, mentoring, mental health services, conflict resolution programs, school resource officers, and more -- helping to prevent youth violence before it occurs. Communities will have until June 1, 1999 to apply for the funds.

Forging School-Based Partnerships Between Schools and Law Enforcement. Under the new School-Based Partnerships grant program, the Clinton Administration released \$16.4 million in grants to 155 law enforcement agencies in September. The School-Based Partnerships grants will be used by policing agencies to work with schools and community-based organizations to address crime at and around schools. This initiative emphasizes using principles of community policing and problem-solving methods to address the causes of school-related crime. The grants will help forge or strengthen partnerships between local law enforcement and schools to focus on school crime, drug use and discipline problems.

Helping Teachers and Principals Respond to the Early Warning Signs of Troubled Youth. President Clinton directed the Secretary of Education and the Attorney General to develop a guide to help teachers and principals identify and respond to the early warning signs of troubled youth that can lead to school violence. In August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released *Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools*. This guide provides schools and communities with information on how to identify the early warning signs and take action steps to prevent and respond to school violence. Every school in the nation received a copy of the guide, and additional copies can be obtained through the Department of Education website.

Issuing the First Annual Report on School Safety. In December 1997, President Clinton called for an Annual Report on School Safety, which was released on October 15, 1998 and sent to every school in the nation. The report includes: an analysis of all existing national school crime data and an overview of state and local crime reporting; examples of schools and strategies that are successfully reducing school violence, drug use and class disruption; actions that parents can take locally to combat school crime; and resources available to schools and communities to help create safe, disciplined and drug-free schools.

Enforcing Zero Tolerance for Guns and Other Weapons in Schools. In October 1994, President Clinton signed into law the Gun-Free Schools Act, requiring states to have in effect a law requiring local education agencies (LEAs) to expel students who bring guns to school. The President issued a Presidential Directive later that month to enforce "zero tolerance" for guns in schools, a policy requiring the expulsion of students who bring guns to schools. In school year 1996-97, the U.S. Department of Education estimates that, under zero tolerance policies, 6,093 students were expelled from public schools for bringing a firearm to school.

Supporting Civic, Community and Faith-Based Organizations. Recognizing the important role that civic, community and faith-based organizations can play in reducing crime, the Administration launched a new Values-Based Violence Prevention Initiative to make \$2.2 million in grants available to 16 community-based collaboratives, including religiously-affiliated organizations, that target youth violence, gangs, truancy, and other juvenile problems by promoting common-sense values and responsibility.

Providing Safe After-School Opportunities for More Than a Million Children a Year. Last year (FY98), the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program was expanded to \$200 million. This funding is already supporting hundreds of programs in rural and urban schools in 44 states and the District of Columbia that provide school-based after-school programs, including on weekends and during the summer. This year, the President proposed to triple this initiative -- to \$600 million -- to provide safe and educational after-school opportunities for up to 1.1 million school-age children in communities across the country. In addition, the Education Department released a report in June 1998, titled *Safe and Smart: Making the After-School Hours Work for Kid*. This report shows that after-school programs can lower juvenile crime and improve academic performance. *Safe and Smart* was sent to every school district in the country.

Cracking Down on Truancy. Truancy prevention initiatives have been shown to keep more children in school and dramatically reduce daytime crime. The Education Department issued a guidebook to the 15,000 school districts nationwide which outlines the central characteristics of a comprehensive truancy prevention policy and highlights model initiatives in cities and towns across the country. Since then, the Education Department has provided grants to local school districts to develop innovative truancy prevention programs of the kind described in the guidebook.

Encouraging Schools to Adopt School Uniform Policies. School uniforms have been found to be a promising strategy to reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect in school. Because of this, the Clinton Administration has encouraged schools to consider adopting school uniform policies by sharing with every school district a school uniforms manual prepared by the Department of Education in consultation with local communities and the Department of Justice. Since the President highlighted school uniforms, a growing number of schools have adopted these policies including: New York City, Dade County, San Antonio, Houston, Chicago and Boston.

Supporting Curfews at the Local Level. Community curfews are designed to help keep children out of harm's way and enhance community safety. Because of their success, President Clinton has encouraged communities to adopt curfew policies. A 1997 survey by the U.S. Conference of Mayors has shown that 276 of 347 cities surveyed -- or 80 percent -- had youth curfew laws, up from 70 percent in 1995.

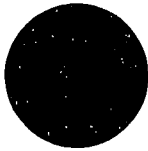
Developed a Comprehensive Anti-Gang and Youth Violence Strategy. President Clinton has proposed a comprehensive strategy to (1) target gangs and violent youths with tougher punishments and by expanding anti-gang task forces and the use of racketeering statutes (i.e., RICO) for gang-related offenses; (2) crack down on kids and guns by prohibiting violent juveniles from buying guns and increasing penalties for selling handguns to youths; and (3) keep kids off the streets and out of trouble by expanding after-school programs and promoting anti-truancy initiatives and youth curfews.

Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Children. A number of laws and initiatives are keeping guns out of the hands of children and away from criminals. For instance, since the Brady Law's enactment, 250,000 felons, fugitives and stalkers have been denied handguns, and the 1994 Crime Bill banned 19 of the deadliest assault weapons and their copies -- keeping assault weapons off America's streets. The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative (YCGII) is cracking down on the illegal gun markets that supply firearms to juveniles and criminals in 37 target cities. The ATF has already traced more than 77,000 crime guns in the YCGII cities, which has led to the investigation and arrest of hundreds of illegal gun traffickers supplying juveniles and criminals. The Administration's FY 2000 budget proposal proposes adding ATF agents to new YCGII cities to assist in gun trafficking investigations. In addition to these programs, President Clinton signed a directive to every federal agency, requiring child safety locking devices with every handgun issued to federal law enforcement officers. And, in an historic agreement, eight major gun manufacturers have voluntarily agreed to provide child safety locking devices with all their handguns, helping to protect our children.

Encouraging Conflict Resolution. The Departments of Education and Justice have developed and distributed 40,000 conflict resolution guides to schools and community organizations, providing guidance on how to develop effective conflict resolution programs; Education and Justice are training community officials and educators on these conflict resolution measures.

Targeting Young People with a National Anti-Drug Media Campaign. In July 1998, President Clinton launched the national expansion of the Anti-Drug Media Campaign first proposed in last year's drug strategy and budget. The 5-year, \$2 billion campaign is designed to let teens know -- when they turn on the television, listen to the radio, or surf the Net -- that drugs are dangerous, wrong and can kill you.

Building and Strengthening 14,000 Community Anti-Drug Coalitions. In 1997, President Clinton signed into law the bipartisan Drug-Free Communities Support Program. Over the next five years this program will provide \$143.5 million to help community coalitions rid their streets of drugs -- the coalitions are made up of young people, parents, media, law enforcement, religious and other civic organizations and school officials. Under this program, the President recently announced new Federal assistance to enhance grassroots efforts in 93 communities in 46 states to prevent youth drug abuse. This assistance will fund the work of broad-based community coalitions to target young people's use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 20, 1999
As of: 11:58 AM

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR. *TM*
KRIS M. BALDERSTON *KMB*

SUBJECT: Agency Efforts on behalf of Littleton, Colorado School Shootings

INCIDENT UPDATE

According to Sheriff Steve Davis, there are fifteen (15) confirmed fatalities; two of which include the suspects. Of the fifteen, eleven (11) are male and four (4) are female. One of the victims is reported to be an adult. In addition, thirty (30) explosive devices were found in the school, one suspect's vehicle in the school parking lot, and in the suspects' residence. Investigators will enter the school this morning and early afternoon to conduct a search and to take photos. After the photos and first search is complete, local officials will commence a major investigation involving agents from several jurisdictions. Sheriff Davis also reported that he will update the press every hour on the half hour. His last statement was at 10:30a.m.

AGENCY EFFORTS

The Department of Education

Secretary Riley called the Jefferson County School Superintendent this morning to offer any assistance to the community. Specifically, the Secretary outlined joint efforts between the Department of Education, Justice, and HHS to provide crisis counselors and any other assistance that is needed. Additionally, Secretary Riley and the Department of Education (DOEd) provided local officials with contact names and numbers for those officials seeking federal assistance. The DOEd has made the following contacts:

- William Molonoy, Chief State School Officer, Colorado: Judith Johnson called Mr. Molonoy and offered assistance; DOEd will follow-up this afternoon.
- Susan Goren, President, National Association of School Psychologists: Susan offered help of NASP in providing assistance to the school system.
- Jenelle Kruger, Safe and Drug Free Schools Program Coordinator, Colorado: State Education Agency: Assistance of SDFS Program was offered.

- Marleen Wong, Director of Mental Health, Los Angeles Public Schools: Marleen has been instrumental in helping various communities that have experienced crisis similar to Colorado. Marleen offered her help in this effort.

- Kathryn Thurman, Director, Office for Victims of Crime, Department of Justice. OVC and SDFS have joint agreement with National Office for Victims of Crime to form crisis response teams and send those teams where they are needed. Kathryn has been working with community victim advocates and feels that the community is very well prepared to deal with this crisis.

Throughout this afternoon, DOEd is in contact with the Superintendent of Jefferson County schools and find out what assistance is needed. DOEd can offer the following:

- Identification of persons who can provide crisis counseling assistance and payment to get those persons to Colorado.
- Identification of persons who have experienced similar tragedies to provide "hands on" help in days immediately following incident. We can pay for travel and per diem of these persons.
- Identification of persons who can help the school district plan a long-term recovery effort which DOEd is currently working on in Springfield, Oregon. DOEd will pay the costs of getting people to Colorado.
- Identification of Security Experts. Often after such a shooting a school district wants to do a thorough review of its school safety plans, policies, etc. DOEd can help identify a person(s) to conduct such a review and will pay costs of getting person to Colorado.

The Department of Treasury

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), 13 ATF investigators are on the scene in addition to two (2) canine handlers and two (2) explosive enforcement officers. ATF was asked by the County Sheriff to assist in clearing the scene of explosive devices and was concluded at 1:30am Denver time. Seven (7) destructive devices were found in the trunk of one suspect's vehicle and 12 small devices were found inside the school. ATF's crime scene mapping system has also been requested by the County Sheriff. ATF will also be involved in tracing firearms described as two (2) sawed-off shotguns, one handgun and one carbine. In addition, ATF will help canvass explosive licenses in an effort to determine who purchased explosives related to this incident. ATF will send a peer support team, including two chaplains, to provide services to the victims, witnesses and investigators.

The Department of Justice

Along with the ATF, FBI agents are on the ground providing technical assistance to local law enforcement officials. They are not active in the investigation as it is considered a local effort at this point. Additionally, these agents may provide added security to the local hospitals and funerals if requested and needed.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency

The FEMA State Director is contacting the local officials to assess needs in dealing with the ongoing community relations initiatives. FEMA officials involved in the Jonesboro incident have been put in contact with the county sheriff in Littleton. These FEMA personnel will provide guidance and expertise to those in Littleton. Two (2) FEMA Public Affairs officials will travel to Colorado to work with state and county officials.

The Department of Health and Human Services

HHS' Center for Mental Health Services has contacted the Colorado State Mental Health Director to offer assistance with crisis counseling if requested. In addition, the Surgeon General stands ready to provide assistance.

NOTE:

Secretary's Herman, Richardson and Glickman will be speaking to the Conference of Black Mayors tomorrow in Denver, Colorado.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 4-20-99ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: ASAPSubject: Austin Statement

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	MOORE	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	NASH	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	REED	☒	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
LEW	☐	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
BERGER	☒	☐	SPERLING	☒	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☐	☐	STEIN	☒	☐
CAHILL	☐	☐	STERN	☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
IBARRA	☒	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
JOHNSON	☒	☐	UCELLI	☒	☐
KLAIN	☒	☐	VERVEER	☐	☐
LANE	☐	☐	WALDMAN	☒	☐
LEWIS	☒	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐	<u>Robyn</u>	☒	☐
LOCKHART	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
MARSHALL <u> </u>	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

Comments to Kris Balderston

RESPONSE:

To the Austin community:

Today we are a nation in mourning. All Americans are shocked and saddened by the tragedy at Columbine High School. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have lost beloved children, siblings and friends and with the entire community of Littleton, Colorado.

While yesterday's tragic events keep me from joining you this morning, I do want to send my congratulations to all of you on this magnificent new airport. Six years ago, I pledged that the communities who won the Cold War would never be left out in the cold. The Austin-Bergstrom International Airport built from the closed Bergstrom Air Force Base is powerful proof that we have kept this pledge. It is the Texas Hill Country's gateway to a prosperous 21st Century.

This airport is not only a testament to the promise of your economic future. It is a testament to the commitment, vision and energy of the people of Austin. You saw that the loss of your air base did not have to be an economic setback for your community, it could be a precious opportunity to move forward, to create even more jobs and promote even more growth in Austin. From the moment Bergstrom was placed on the base closure list, you worked to build support for a new airport and never wavered. I applaud your faith and hard work. And I am proud that the federal government has been a partner in your efforts.

This facility pays tribute to several of Texans who helped shape the course of history in our century: To Capt. Earl Bergstrom, the first Austinite to give his life in World War II. To President Lyndon B. Johnson. To Congressman Jake Pickle. And to the late great Congresswoman Barbara Jordan. Your honorees are well chosen. May every visitor to this airport and to this community be inspired by Captain Bergstrom's courage and sacrifice, by President Johnson's bold vision and commitment to progress, by Congressman Pickle's life of service, by Barbara Jordan's voice for justice and search for common ground. And may God Bless all the people of Austin.

President Bill Clinton

Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
6-7060, 2FL/WW

Distribution List

_____ Virginia Apuzzo 145 OEOB	_____ Janet Murguia 2FL/WW
_____ Beverly Barnes 164 OEOB	_____ Bob Nash 158 OEOB
_____ Samuel Berger 1FL/WW	_____ John Podesta 1FL/WW
_____ Sidney Blumenthal GFL/WW	_____ Bruce Reed 2FL/WW
_____ Mary Beth Cahill 122 OEOB	_____ Linda Ricci 253 OEOB
_____ Hon. Charles Burson 266 OEOB	_____ Steve Richetti 1FL/WW
_____ Kay Casstevens S-212 Capitol	_____ Charles Ruff 2FL/WW
_____ Maurice Daniel 276 OEOB	_____ Marsha Scott OEOB 115
_____ Monica Dixon 280 OEOB	_____ Karen Skelton 115 OEOB
_____ Maria Echaveste 1FL/WW	_____ Doug Sosnik 1FL/WW
_____ Pat Ewing 272 OEOB	_____ Stacie Spector 173 OEOB
_____ The First Lady 2FL/WW	_____ Gene Sperling 2FL/WW
_____ Mrs. Gore 200 OEOB	_____ Larry Stein 2FL/WW
_____ Josh Gotbaum 254 OEOB	_____ Todd Stern GFL/WW
_____ Larry Haas 253 OEOB	_____ Stephanie Streett GFL/WW
_____ Audrey Haynes 200 OEOB	_____ Karen Tramontano 522 OEOB
_____ Ben Johnson 470 OEOB	_____ Loretta Ucelli GF/WW
_____ Neal Lane 424 OEOB	_____ Melanne Verveer 100 OEOB
_____ Ron Klain 276 OEOB	_____ The Vice President 1FL/WW
_____ Jack Lew 252 OEOB	_____ Janet Yellen 314 OEOB
_____ Ann Lewis GFL/WW	_____ Michael Waldman 196 OEOB
_____ Bruce Lindsey 2FL/WW	_____ Morley Winograd 273 OEOB
_____ Joe Lockhart 1FL/WW	_____ Wesley Warren CEQ
_____ Ellen Lovell 708 Jackson Place	
_____ Thurgood Marshall, Jr. 2FL/WW	
_____ Minyon Moore 2FL/WW	
_____ Linda Moore 115 OEOB	



City of Austin

NEWS RELEASE

Public Information Office

124 W. Eighth Street

P.O. Box 1088

Austin, Texas 78767-8837

Phone: (512) 499-2220

FAX: (512) 499-2405

Web Address: www.ci.austin.tx.us

For immediate release

April 20, 1999

Contact: Michele Middlebrook-Gonzalez, Public Information Office, 499-2410 or
613-0630

Colorado tragedy prompts City of Austin to cancel ceremony

The City of Austin received the following notice from the White House tonight:

(Austin -- AP) -- President Clinton has canceled his scheduled trip to Texas tomorrow in the wake of the Colorado school shootings.

Clinton was due to celebrate the upcoming opening of the new Austin airport and attend political fund-raisers in Austin and Houston.

White House press secretary Joe Lockhart said tonight that Clinton canceled the Texas trip out of respect for Colorado's grief.

He said the president will stay in Washington.

"In light of this tragedy, I certainly understand the President's action in canceling his trip to Austin," said Mayor Kirk Watson. "I have been in contact with the White House tonight and while Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater was prepared to be with us tomorrow, we have decided instead to join with the American family in reaching out to the community in Jefferson County, Colorado, and embracing those who are suffering an unimaginable anguish. My heart goes out to them and I know they'll be in the thoughts and prayers of all Austinites and Central Texans."

###



Sean P. O'Shea

04/21/99 03:45:24 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: need help

----- Forwarded by Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP on 04/21/99 03:45 PM -----



Lisa J. Levin

04/21/99 03:35:50 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP, Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: need help

----- Forwarded by Lisa J. Levin/WHO/EOP on 04/21/99 03:35 PM -----



Carolyn T. Wu

04/21/99 03:33:53 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Lisa J. Levin/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: need help

can you make sure Kris gets this!

----- Forwarded by Carolyn T. Wu/WHO/EOP on 04/21/99 03:33 PM -----

Karen Tramontano

04/21/99 03:30:16

PM

Record Type: Record

To: Carolyn T. Wu/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: need help

would you make sure that kris gets this message. thanks

----- Forwarded by Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP on 04/21/99 03:30 PM -----

Karen Tramontano

04/21/99 03:29:49

PM

Record Type: Record

To: Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP

cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

Subject: need help

please make sure that herman, glickman and richardson when they speak tomorrow -- have the talking points on the crisis--which i think should be vetted w/ loretta, mike and bruce -- and please make sure they also talk about what we--the executive branch of government -- are doing. Thanks

Message Copied To:

Loretta M. Ucelli/WHO/EOP
Michael Waldman/WHO/EOP
Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP
Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP
Douglas B. Sosnik/WHO/EOP

Columbine ?

ATF's Role in the ~~Columbian~~ High School Shooting Incident in Littleton, Colorado

We have 13 investigators on scene in addition to the 2 canine handlers and 2 explosives enforcement officers. At the request of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office ATF investigators which includes certified explosives specialists were asked to assist in clearing the scene of explosives devices. This clearing concluded at 1:30 a.m. Denver time. A total of 7 destructive devices were located in the trunk of one suspect's vehicle and 12 small devices were located inside of the school. ATF's crime scene mapping system has also been requested to document the shooting and explosive scene for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. The suspects have been identified as being Eric Harris W/M age 18 and Dillon Claybold W/M age 18. An associate of suspects Chris Morris has been arrested as a witness and is currently in custody.

We have a total of 15 dead which involves 10 students in library, 2 died in the hospital and one died outside of school and 1 teacher. Also the 2 suspects were found dead in the library. At 10:00 a.m. Denver time investigators along with explosives enforcement officers and canine units will reenter the scene for the final clearing prior to forensic teams entering location. We will be involved in tracing firearms described as 2 sawed-off shotguns, one handgun and one carbine. We are also in the process of having investigators and inspectors canvass explosives licensees in an effort to determine who purchased explosives related to this incident. We are also sending a peer support team which includes 2 chaplains to the scene to provide services to the victims, witnesses and investigators.

Mark Fogarty



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

Fax Transmission Cover Sheet

Date: _____ Number of Pages to Follow: 1

To: KAREN TRAMONTANO - 456-2030
KIRIS BALDERSTON - 456-2525

Fax: _____

Tel: _____

From: David A. Bloom
Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 3028
Tel: (202) 622-0059
Fax: (202) 622-0073
Pager: (202) 622-1260

Memorandum

Attached is a slightly revised and
cleaned up draft of my earlier fax.
Call w/ questions. Thanks.

04/21/98 WED 09:17 FAX 002
456-2525

Leadership Talking Points for Colorado Tragedy

Heuer
Jepi
Palmer
Corda
Lester
3:00-5:00

Three Key Messages

- 1) **The vast majority of schools are safe. [Only 10% public schools report any serious violent crime.]**
- 2) **The Department of Justice and our federal partners are prepared to provide assistance to the victims, the families and the entire community of Littleton, Colorado, when and where requested;**
- 3) **We know what things work to help prevent this kind of violence, but in order to succeed in our efforts we need to engage communities, state and local governments; business and the faith community.**

Talking Points

- **Together with the Nation, I mourn with the family and friends of those who were so senselessly killed and injured yesterday in Colorado. But, we do the victims no honor if we allow our grief to overwhelm our resolve to prevent future tragedies.**

- In the wake of last year's tragic multiple shootings, this Administration redoubled its efforts to stop school violence before it starts. But yesterday's shootings are a reminder that redoubled efforts are not necessarily enough. The shootings are a new call to action. We must mourn, and then we must do even more to solve this problem.
- First, a look at what we have already done. Last year, we convened two meetings with nationally-recognized experts on youth violence. Uniformly, these experts told us that there is much we know about how to prevent similar incidents from arising and that there is much we can do. They told us that, while we must punish and hold youthful offenders accountable, we must do everything we can to prevent similar tragedies from happening, as well.
 - ◆ Punishment. It is essential to have strong laws to punish and hold youthful offenders suitably accountable for these horrendous crimes. But that alone won't bring back the dead; it won't heal the wounded or make families whole again.
 - ◆ Identification of Warning Signs/Early Intervention. We know the warning signs and risk factors that signal potentially violent youth. We know that early intervention with these young people has a tremendous impact. We must train parents, school personnel and community members to identify those warning signs and we must provide resources for

early intervention, professional and otherwise.

To this end, in August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education issued guidelines to help school principals and teachers recognize and respond to youth who have displayed warning signs of violent behavior. We have distributed hundreds of thousands of copies of the "Early Warning Timely Response" report.

- ◆ **Non-violent Ways to Deal with Aggression and Resolve Conflicts.** Conflict resolution curricula and peer mediation programs are proving to be effective in decreasing youth violence. In a cultural environment where exposure to violent confrontations has become matter-of-fact, we must give young people the skills to resolve their interpersonal conflicts peacefully. As the President has said, we must teach our children to solve their conflicts through words, not violence.

To spread the word across the country, in October 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released the first Annual Report on School Safety, including information on model conflict resolution and other school crime reduction programs.

In addition, the COPS Officer at the Department of Justice is pursuing promising problem-solving partnerships between schools and law enforcement. We know that when schools work together with

local law enforcement to tackle local school safety issues, they enjoy remarkable success.

- ◆ **Guns.** The undeniable link among all of these recent incidents is the presence of guns in the hands of unsupervised youth. In 1994, 81% of juvenile homicide offenders killed with a firearm -- with approximately 3/4 of these firearms being handguns. We can and must do more to limit unauthorized access by young people to guns.

We should raise penalties for juveniles who possess handguns, and for adults who illegally transfer handguns to juveniles. We should extend the Brady Law, so that young people who commit serious and violent offenses can't purchase handguns as soon as they become adults. And we should continue to crack down on illegal gun markets, by increasing penalties for straw purchases and for gang-related firearms offenses.

- **Next Steps.** We must capitalize on the initiatives announced by the President in October 1998 at the White House Conference on School Safety.
 - The President announced a new federal response for violent deaths and other crises in schools, to be coordinated by the Departments of Justice, Education and Health and Human Services. Funding for **Project SERV** (School Emergency Response to Violence) is

included in the President's FY 2000 budget.

- He also announced a new initiative to **hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers** to work in the most troubled schools. The funding of these officers is underway.
- In addition, the President announced the new **Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative**, a grant program jointly administered by the Departments of Justice, Education and Health and Human Services and designed to promote coordinated, comprehensive plans for school safety in communities around the country. Just a few weeks ago, Secretary Riley, Surgeon General Satcher and I formally introduced the Initiative.

Finally, we must continue to develop training for law enforcement officers -- for the specific purpose of working in schools. When an officer receives specific training on how to communicate with students, on how to build relationships, we see greater respect for officers by students, and for students by officers. And that means safer schools.

In short, the Justice Department, and the Administration as a whole, have been working hard on the issue of school safety and we think we've made a lot of progress, but this new tragedy is a new call to action.

DRAFT

Attorney General Remarks on Colorado Shootings
Prepared by: Charles Simon
Reviewed by: Myron Marlin, Ricki Seidman, Ann Harkins

DRAFT

I want to take a moment to comment on yesterday's terrible shooting in Littleton, Colorado.

It is impossible to make sense of a tragic event like this. Any time the sound of gun fire rings out in our halls of learning, it rips through the very fabric of our society.

As a nation, we are touched by the pain of the innocent victims, their families and friends, the students, teachers and staff of Columbine High School, and the community as a whole. Our hearts go out to all the people of Jefferson County.

This morning, I want to praise local law enforcement, support services and the faith community which responded so quickly and ably yesterday. At the request of the local authorities, FBI and ATF agents have been in Littleton providing assistance. We have teams of victims' counselors standing by. We have let the community know that the Departments of Justice and Education will provide whatever resources they may need.

What we must do now is learn from this tragedy and use the lessons to

help prevent future tragedies.

Although it comes as little comfort at a time like this, we must remember that schools are still among the safest places for America's children. Only 10% of public schools report any serious violent crime. But we all know that even that small percentage is far too great.

Just over one year ago, I traveled to Jonesboro, Arkansas to attend a memorial service in the wake of another terrible school shooting. I was saddened as I mourned with the people there, but I was also inspired by their strength of spirit, their faith in each other, and their belief in hope and healing.

Spurred by the memory of those who died in last year's school shootings, we redoubled our efforts to stop school violence. But yesterday's shootings are a sad reminder that even those efforts may not be enough.

We must mourn, and then we must do even more to solve this problem. We owe it to those who suffered so terribly yesterday and to those who live wherever else guns have shattered lives and broken the peace and quiet of our schools and communities.

DRAFT

Leadership Talking Points for Colorado Tragedy

prepared by: Charles Simon

reviewed by Ricki Seidman, Ann Harkins

DRAFT

**[HOLD UP "EARLY WARNING TIMELY RESPONSE"
REPORT DURING INTERVIEW]**

Three Key Messages

- 1) The vast majority of schools are safe. [Only 10% public schools report any serious violent crime.]**
- 2) The Department of Justice and our federal partners are prepared to provide assistance to the victims, the families and the entire community of Littleton, Colorado, when and where requested;**
- 3) We know what things work to help prevent this kind of violence, but in order to succeed in our efforts we need to engage communities, state and local governments; business and the faith community.**

Talking Points

- Together with the Nation, I mourn with the family and friends of those who were so senselessly killed and injured yesterday in Colorado. But, we do the victims no honor if we allow our grief to overwhelm our resolve to prevent future tragedies.**

- In the wake of last year's tragic multiple shootings, this Administration redoubled its efforts to stop school violence before it starts. But yesterday's shootings are a reminder that redoubled efforts are not necessarily enough. The shootings are a new call to action. We must mourn, and then we must do even more to solve this problem.
- First, a look at what we have already done. Last year, we convened two meetings with nationally-recognized experts on youth violence. Uniformly, these experts told us that there is much we know about how to prevent similar incidents from arising and that there is much we can do. They told us that, while we must punish and hold youthful offenders accountable, we must do everything we can to prevent similar tragedies from happening, as well.
 - ◆ Punishment. It is essential to have strong laws to punish and hold youthful offenders suitably accountable for these horrendous crimes. But that alone won't bring back the dead; it won't heal the wounded or make families whole again.
 - ◆ Identification of Warning Signs/Early Intervention. We know the warning signs and risk factors that signal potentially violent youth. We know that early intervention with these young people has a tremendous impact. We must train parents, school personnel and community members to identify those warning signs and we must provide resources for early intervention, professional and otherwise.

To this end, in August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education issued guidelines to help school principals and teachers recognize and respond to youth who have displayed warning signs of violent behavior. We have distributed hundreds of thousands of copies of the “Early Warning Timely Response” report.

- ◆ **Non-violent Ways to Deal with Aggression and Resolve Conflicts.** Conflict resolution curricula and peer mediation programs are proving to be effective in decreasing youth violence. In a cultural environment where exposure to violent confrontations has become matter-of-fact, we must give young people the skills to resolve their interpersonal conflicts peacefully. As the President has said, we must teach our children to solve their conflicts through words, not violence.

To spread the word across the country, in October 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education released the first Annual Report on School Safety, including information on model conflict resolution and other school crime reduction programs.

In addition, the COPS Officer at the Department of Justice is pursuing promising problem-solving partnerships between schools and law enforcement. We know that when schools work together with local law enforcement to tackle local school safety issues, they enjoy remarkable success.

- ◆ Guns. The undeniable link among all of these recent incidents is the presence of guns in the hands of unsupervised youth. In 1994, 81% of juvenile homicide offenders killed with a firearm -- with approximately 3/4 of these firearms being handguns. We can and must do more to limit unauthorized access by young people to guns.

We should raise penalties for juveniles who possess handguns, and for adults who illegally transfer handguns to juveniles. We should extend the Brady Law, so that young people who commit serious and violent offenses can't purchase handguns as soon as they become adults. And we should continue to crack down on illegal gun markets, by increasing penalties for straw purchases and for gang-related firearms offenses.

- Next Steps. We must capitalize on the initiatives announced by the President in October 1998 at the White House Conference on School Safety.
 - The President announced a new federal response for violent deaths and other crises in schools, to be coordinated by the Departments of Justice, Education and Health and Human Services. Funding for **Project SERV** (School Emergency Response to Violence) is included in the President's FY 2000 budget.
 - He also announced a new initiative to **hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers** to

work in the most troubled schools. The funding of these officers is underway.

- In addition, the President announced the new **Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative**, a grant program jointly administered by the Departments of Justice, Education and Health and Human Services and designed to promote coordinated, comprehensive plans for school safety in communities around the country. Just a few weeks ago, Secretary Riley, Surgeon General Satcher and I formally introduced the Initiative.

Finally, we must continue to develop training for law enforcement officers -- for the specific purpose of working in schools. When an officer receives specific training on how to communicate with students, on how to build relationships, we see greater respect for officers by students, and for students by officers. And that means safer schools.

In short, the Justice Department, and the Administration as a whole, have been working hard on the issue of school safety and we think we've made a lot of progress, but this new tragedy is a new call to action.

**Colorado School Shooting
Questions and Answers**

DRAFT

prepared by: Charles Simon

reviewed by: Ricki Seidman and Myron Marlin

Q: What is the federal role in this case?

A: The FBI and ATF provided assistance to the local authorities during the course of the day yesterday and remain on the scene and ready to provide additional support if needed.

Now, in the aftermath of this tragedy, our role is to provide whatever resources we can to support the local authorities. Necessarily, the hours and days right after a tragedy like this are challenging and terribly difficult, and the federal government stands ready to help as, when and where we are needed. Our Office of Victims of Crime is in direct contact with the Denver region victim assistance/crisis response network and has offered our assistance. We will coordinate federal assistance with the Department of Education, when and if requested by the local authorities. In addition, if asked, the federal government will provide whatever support it can in the investigation of this tragedy.

Q: Why are we seeing so many of these types of incidents?

A: In fact, these types of incidents are remarkably rare. This is the first multiple shooting at a school this school year, in a nation with 52 million students and 109,000 schools. Even taking into account last school year when a number of multiple shootings took place at school, less than one percent of homicides among this age group occurs in a school setting. And only 10% of public schools report any serious violent crime. Nevertheless, these are senseless and tragic incidents, and we must work to ensure that they don't happen again. The fact that schools are among the safest places for America's children is cold comfort in the face of a tragedy like this.

Q: What has the Justice Department done since the first school shootings a year and a half ago?

A: Following the tragedy in Jonesboro, the Attorney General convened two meetings with a broad range of national experts, who uniformly urged that we give a higher priority to prevention and early intervention. The experts called on the Federal government to widely disseminate information about what works and to provide financial assistance for local communities to implement effective prevention and early intervention strategies.

In August 1998, the Departments of Justice and Education issued guidelines to help school principals and teachers recognize and respond to youth who have displayed warning signs of violent behavior. We have distributed hundreds of thousand of copies of the "Early Warning Timely Response" report.

Then, in October 1998, the President hosted the first-ever White House Conference on

School Safety. At the Conference, the President released the first Annual Report on School Safety developed by Secretary Riley and me. He also announced a series of new school safety initiatives that are now well under way.

The President announced a new federal response for violent deaths and other crises in schools, to be coordinated by the Departments of Justice, Education and Health and Human Services. Funding for Project SERV (School Emergency Response to Violence) is included in the President's FY 2000 budget.

He also announced a new initiative to hire up to 2,000 community police and School Resource Officers to work in the most troubled schools. The funding of these officers is now underway.

In addition, the President announced the new Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative, a grant program jointly administered by the Departments of Justice, Education and Health and Human Services and designed to promote coordinated, comprehensive plans for school safety in communities around the country. Just a few weeks ago, Secretary Riley, Surgeon General Satcher and I formally introduced the Initiative.

The COPS Officer at the Department of Justice is pursuing promising problem-solving partnerships between schools and law enforcement. We know that when schools work together with local law enforcement to tackle local school safety issues, they enjoy remarkable success.

Finally, we continue to develop training for law enforcement officers -- for the specific purpose of working in schools. When an officer receives specific training on how to communicate with students, on how to build relationships, we see greater respect for officers by students, and for students by officers. And that means safer schools.

In short, the Justice Department and the Administration as a whole have been working hard on these issues and we think we've made a lot of progress, but this new tragedy is a new call to action.

Q: Why can't you do more?

A: We can do more and we will do more. I can't tell you that we can prevent every incident, but we can have an impact. There is, unfortunately, no cookie cutter approach. The hard work has to take place at the local level, community by community. We can and must support local efforts and get information about what works into the hands of the people who need it. We must finish implementation of the initiatives announced by the President at the Conference on School Safety. And we can take further steps at the national level to limit children's unsupervised access to guns.

Q: The common denominator in all these school shootings is guns in the hands of young people. What are you doing to keep kids away from guns?

A: We know that tough, targeted deterrence and better prevention are the key to reducing juvenile violence. For example, in Boston, Federal, state and local law enforcement worked with probation officers, clergy, community workers and many others to deliver a tough, targeted message on gun violence. The result: no juvenile was killed for a 2 ½ year period. But we can also do more to keep illegal guns out of the hands of young people. We should raise penalties for juveniles who possess handguns, and for adults who illegally transfer handguns to juveniles. We should extend the Brady Law, so that young people who commit serious and violent offenses can't purchase handguns as soon as they become adults. And we should continue to crack down on illegal gun markets, by increasing penalties for straw purchases and for gang-related firearms offenses.

Q: Do we need new laws that cover school shootings or allow federal prosecution of juveniles who participate in them?

A: Currently, federal law generally allows for the prosecution of certain juveniles as adults for certain drug and gun crimes. Lower threshold ages for federal prosecution were passed as part of the 1994 Crime Bill. In addition, a number of states have developed innovative legislative solutions to the issue of appropriate juvenile prosecution and incarceration.

Q: Is the federal government planning to step in on Jonesboro or any of the other cases to help keep the murderers in those cases locked up past their 18th birthdays?

A: The Department currently has this matter under review. It would be inappropriate for me to comment at this time.

Q: The Justice Department keeps talking about prevention and yet we have seen more incidents of multiple shootings in schools than at any time in history. Shouldn't you change your focus to imposing tougher penalties that tell kids you won't be getting out when you're 18, and you're going to jail for a long, long time?

A: It is essential to have strong laws to punish and hold youthful offenders suitably accountable for these horrendous crimes. But that won't bring back the dead, it won't heal the wounded or make families whole again. So we must do everything we can to PREVENT similar tragedies from happening, as well. Tougher penalties must go hand-in-hand with improved efforts to detect early warning signs of violent behavior, to provide crucial mental health and juvenile services, and to teach conflict resolution – to name just a few prevention strategies.



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20530

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Lisa Levin

FAX NO. 456-2525

FROM: Jon Jennings

PHONE NO. 514-2141

FAX NO. 514-4482

DATE: 4-21-99

NO. OF PAGES 10 (EXCLUDING COVER)

COMMENTS Very Important - Pls. deliver



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

Fax Transmission Cover Sheet

Date: _____ Number of Pages to Follow: 1

To: Kris Baldeston

Fax: 486 - 2525

Tel: _____

From: David A. Bloom
Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 3028
Tel: (202) 622-0059
Fax: (202) 622-0073
Pager: (202) 622-1260

Memorandum

Kris - Attached is our 1st crack at writing up ATF's role. Updates will follow as events develop. Call with questions. Thanks

Columbine ?

ATF's Role in the ~~Columbian~~ High School Shooting Incident in Littleton, Colorado

We have 13 investigators on scene in addition to the 2 canine handlers and 2 explosives enforcement officers. At the request of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office ATF investigators which includes certified explosives specialists ~~w~~ere asked to assist in clearing the scene of explosives devices. This clearing concluded at 1:30 a.m. Denver time. A total of 7 destructive devices were located in the trunk of one suspect's vehicle and 12 small devices were located inside of the school. ATF's crime scene mapping system has also been requested to document the shooting and explosive scene for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. The suspects have been identified as being Eric Harris W/M age 18 and Dillon Claybold W/M age 18. An associate of suspects Chris Morris has been arrested as a witness and is currently in custody.

We have a total of 15 dead which involves 10 students in library, 2 died in the hospital and one died outside of school and 1 teacher. Also the 2 suspects were found dead in the library. At 10:00 a.m. Denver time investigators along with explosives enforcement officers and canine units will reenter the scene for the final clearing prior to forensic teams entering location. We will be involved in tracing firearms described as 2 sawed-off shotguns, one handgun and one carbine. We are also in the process of having investigators and inspectors canvass explosives licensees in an effort to determine who purchased explosives related to this incident. We are also sending a peer support team which includes 2 chaplains to the scene to provide services to the victims, witnesses and investigators.

Mark Fogarty

 Lisa J. Levin

04/21/99 10:12:12 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP, Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: FW: Follow Up to Shooting

----- Forwarded by Lisa J. Levin/WHO/EOP on 04/21/99 10:12 AM -----



"Thornton, Leslie" <Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov>

04/21/99 10:08:47 AM

Record Type: Record

To: "balderston_k@a1.eop.gov" <balderston_k@a1.eop.gov>, Lisa J. Levin/WHO/EOP

cc:

Subject: FW: Follow Up to Shooting

Kris --

Per this morning's conference call.

Again, my e:mail is: Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Modzeleski, Bill

> Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 1999 9:57 AM

> To: Thornton, Leslie

> Cc: Johnson, Judith; Rogers, Diane; Sullivan, Kevin; Green, Julie;

> Frank, David

> Subject: Follow Up to Shooting

>

> As a follow up to the shooting in Colorado we have made the following

> contacts:

>

> --William Molonoy, Chief State School Officer, Colorado: Judith Johnson

> called Mr. Molonoy and offered assistance of ED. Need follow up call.

>

> --Susan Goren, President, National Association of School Psychologists:

> Susan offered help of NASP in providing assistance to the school system.

>

> --Jenelle Kruger, Safe and Drug Free Schools Program Coordinator, Colorado

- > State Education Agency: Offered assistance of SDFS Program.
- >
- > --Marleen Wong, Director of Mental Health, Los Angeles Public Schools:
- > Marleen has been instrumental in helping various communities that have
- > experienced crisis similar to Colorado. Marleen offered to help in this
- > effort.
- >
- > --Kathryn Thurman, Director, Office for Victims of Crime, Department of
- > Justice. OVC and SDFS have joint agreement with National Office for
- > Victims of Crime to form crisis response teams and send those teams where
- > they are needed. Kathryn has been working with community victim advocates
- > and feels that the community is very well prepared to deal with this
- > crisis. She doesn't know how well linked the school system is to the
- > community.
- >
- > Actions for Today:
- >
- > Primary focus will be to make contact with the superintendent of Jefferson
- > County schools and find out what assistance is needed. We can offer the
- > following:
- >
- > o Identification of persons who can provide crisis counseling assistance,
- > and payment to get those persons to Colorado.
- >
- > o Identification of persons who have experienced similar tragedies to
- > provide "hands on" help in days immediately following incident. We can pay
- > for travel and per diem of these persons.
- >
- > o Identification of persons who can help school district plan long-term
- > recovery plan. We are doing this with Springfield, Oregon and it is
- > working extremely well. We can pay costs of getting person to Colorado and
- > per diem expenses.
- >
- > o Identification of Security Experts. Often after such a shooting a school
- > district wants to do a thorough review of its school safety plans,
- > policies, etc. We can help identify a person(s) to conduct such a review
- > and pay costs for getting person to Colorado.



- att1.unk

April 20, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR JOE LOCKHART

FROM: Kris Balderston

SUBJECT: Agency Efforts on behalf of Littleton School Shootings

Following outlines agency responses and offers of assistance to help the Littleton school district.

The Department of Education

Secretary Riley will call the Jefferson County School Superintendent this morning to offer any assistance to the community. Specifically, the Secretary will outline joint efforts between the Department of Education, Justice, and HHS to provide crisis counselors and any other assistance that is needed. Additionally, Secretary Riley will provide local officials with contact names and numbers for those officials seeking federal assistance.

The Departments of Justice and Treasury

ATF and FBI agents are on the ground providing technical assistance to local law enforcement officials. They are not active in the investigation as it is considered a local effort at this point. Additionally, these agents may provide added security to the local hospitals and funerals if requested and needed.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA stands ready to provide media and community relations assistance to the local officials if requested. The FEMA State Director is contacting the local officials to assess need in dealing with the ongoing community relations initiatives.

The Department of Health and Human Services

HHS' Center for Mental Health Services has contacted the Colorado State Mental Health Director to offer assistance with crisis counseling if requested. In addition, the Surgeon General stands ready to provide assistance.

NOTE:

Secretary's Herman, Richardson and Glickman will be speaking to the Conference of Black Mayors tomorrow in Denver, Colorado.



ReSEND

Town Hall
2:30
PCSD

FACSIMILE

L7 Lisa Guide
CEQ

**From the Immediate Office of the Secretary
Executive Secretariat**

To: CHRIS
Fax#: 2-456-2525
Re: LITTLETON - URGENT
Date: _____

53449

Pages: including this cover sheet 23

From the desk of:

☐ LaVarne Burton	☐ Jackie White
☐ Sandy Bart	☐ John Gallivan
☐ Kimberly Harold	☐ Carlos McCormick
☐ Christy Quigley	☐ Martina Varnado
☐ Mirtha Beadle	☐ Ann White
☐ Scott Boule	☐ Melvin Whitfield
☐ LaJuana Caldwell	☐ Other _____
☐ Carlos Cano	
☐ Sean Donohue	
☐ Neleen Eisenger	
☐ Lorraine Fishback	
☐ Johnathan Friebert	

DREW HAZAFFA
205-8154

Comments: _____

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Immediate Office of the Secretary- Executive Secretariat

200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201
Fax: 205-8870 or 205-2195



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Secretary

Washington, D.C. 20201

HHS Involvement in Littleton School Shooting
April 21, 1999

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA):

CMHS we will be in contact today with our State coordinator today to offer assistance if needed. As you may know these emergency response teams are locally based across the nation. An example of what may be offered is after the Oklahoma City bombing we helped to set up an extensive mental health counseling network for those affected. We are working on a proposal with DoE and DOJ to form a crisis response effort that would be available for these kinds of situations but that is on the drawing board.

Office of Public Health & Science (OPHS):

will provide updates as soon as possible

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

will provide updates as soon as possible

Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative

Although schools are generally safer today than they were just a few years ago – and statistics show that students are safer sitting in a classroom than walking down a street – there is still much more that we can do to improve the health and safety of our schools and students. Last Fall, in the wake of tragic multiple shootings at a number of schools, the President convened the first-ever White House Conference on School Safety, so that we could share ideas on how to make our schools and communities safer. During the Conference, the President issued a call to action, announcing a series of new initiatives to address many of the problems highlighted at the Conference.

An Unprecedented Collaborative Effort. Today, the Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services (the "Agencies") are formally introducing an unprecedented collaborative effort, the Safe Schools/Health Students Initiative (the "Initiative"). The Agencies – through the Initiative – will provide schools, students and communities with the tools to develop and implement comprehensive community-wide strategies for creating safe and drug-free schools and for promoting healthy childhood development.

Enhanced Comprehensive Services. Students, schools and communities will receive enhanced comprehensive educational, mental health, social service, law enforcement, and, as appropriate, juvenile justice system services. Activities that may be funded as part of this Initiative include, but are not limited to, truancy prevention, teen courts, alternative education, purchasing security equipment and services, after school activities, mentoring, programs such as conflict resolution, life skills, school-based anti-drug curricula, nurse home visitation, family strengthening and staff professional development. These services and activities will allow young people to develop the social skills and emotional resilience necessary to avoid drug use and violent behavior, and will help to create safe, disciplined and drug-free school environments. The Initiative is based on evidence that a comprehensive, integrated community-wide approach is an effective way to promote safe schools and healthy students.

A Streamlined Application Process. Through a streamlined, single application process, approximately 50 successful applicants will receive support from the Agencies for up to three years (depending on Congressional appropriation of funding in future years) to support a wide variety of developmental, educational and public safety services. Successful applicants will be school districts (local education agencies) representing community partnerships involving, at a minimum:

- the local educational agency,
- the local public mental health authority,
- the local law enforcement agency,
- family members,
- students, and
- juvenile justice officials.

A Demonstrated Plan. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate that their comprehensive safe school plans include the following elements: (1) a secure school environment, (2) alcohol, drug and violence prevention and early intervention, (3) school and community mental health preventive and treatment intervention services, (4) early childhood psychosocial and emotional development services, (5) educational reform, and (6) safe school policies.

Awards. Awards will range from up to \$3 million per year for urban school districts, up to \$2 million per year for suburban school districts, and up to \$1 million per year for rural school districts and tribal schools. The Initiative will be funded out of FY1999 appropriations, with \$60 million from the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program of the Department of Education; \$25 million from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services; and \$15 million from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) of the Department of Justice. In addition, up to \$80 million are available from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing for the hiring of law enforcement officers to work in schools.



Sean P. O'Shea

04/21/99 12:56:21 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP, Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: CURRENT MEMO - FYI

Sent this to the Agency Reps per Kris

----- Forwarded by Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP on 04/21/99 12:56 PM -----



Sean P. O'Shea

04/21/99 12:54:18 PM



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: CURRENT MEMO - FYI

The White House

April 20, 1999

As of: 11:58 AM

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR.
KRIS M. BALDERSTON

SUBJECT: Agency Efforts on behalf of Littleton, Colorado School Shootings

INCIDENT UPDATE

According to Sheriff Steve Davis, there are fifteen (15) confirmed fatalities; two of which include the suspects. Of the fifteen, eleven (11) are male and four (4) are female. One of the victims is reported to be an adult. In addition, thirty (30) explosive devices were found in the school, one suspect's vehicle in the school parking lot, and in the suspects' residence. Investigators will enter the school this morning and early afternoon to conduct a search and to take photos. After the photos and first search is complete, local officials will commence a major investigation involving agents from several jurisdictions. Sheriff Davis also reported that he will update the press every hour on the half hour. His last statement was at 10:30a.m.

AGENCY EFFORTS

The Department of Education

Secretary Riley called the Jefferson County School Superintendent this morning to offer any assistance to the community. Specifically, the Secretary outlined joint efforts between the Department of Education, Justice, and HHS to provide crisis counselors and any other assistance that is needed. Additionally, Secretary Riley and the Department of Education (DOEd) provided local officials with contact names and numbers for those officials seeking federal assistance. The DOEd has made the following contacts:

- William Molonoy, Chief State School Officer, Colorado: Judith Johnson called Mr. Molonoy and offered assistance; DOEd will follow-up this afternoon.
- Susan Goren, President, National Association of School Psychologists: Susan offered help of NASP in providing assistance to the school system.
- Jenelle Kruger, Safe and Drug Free Schools Program Coordinator, Colorado: State Education Agency: Assistance of SDFS Program was offered.
- Marleen Wong, Director of Mental Health, Los Angeles Public Schools: Marleen has been instrumental in helping various communities that have experienced crisis similar to Colorado. Marleen offered her help in this effort.
- Kathryn Thurman, Director, Office for Victims of Crime, Department of Justice. OVC and SDFS have joint agreement with National Office for Victims of Crime to form crisis response teams and send those teams where they are needed. Kathryn has been working with community victim advocates and feels that the community is very well prepared to deal with this crisis.

Throughout this afternoon, DOEd is in contact with the Superintendent of Jefferson County schools and find out what assistance is needed. DOEd can offer the following:

- Identification of persons who can provide crisis counseling assistance and payment to get those persons to Colorado.
- Identification of persons who have experienced similar tragedies to provide "hands on" help in days immediately following incident. We can pay for travel and per diem of these persons.
- Identification of persons who can help the school district plan a long-term recovery effort which DOEd is currently working on in Springfield, Oregon. DOEd will pay the costs of getting people to Colorado.
- Identification of Security Experts. Often after such a shooting a school district wants to do a thorough review of its school safety plans, policies, etc. DOEd can help identify a person(s) to conduct such a review and will pay costs of getting person to Colorado.

The Department of Treasury

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), 13 ATF investigators are on the scene in addition to two (2) canine handlers and two (2) explosive enforcement officers. ATF was asked by the County Sheriff to assist in clearing the scene of explosive devices and was concluded at 1:30am Denver time. Seven (7) destructive devices were found in the trunk of one suspect's vehicle and 12 small devices were found inside the school. ATF's crime scene mapping system has also been requested by the County Sheriff. ATF will also be involved in tracing firearms described as two (2) sawed-off shotguns, one handgun and one carbine. In addition, ATF will help canvass explosive licenses in an effort to determine who purchased explosives related to this incident. ATF will send a peer support team,

including two chaplains, to provide services to the victims, witnesses and investigators.

The Department of Justice

Along with the ATF, FBI agents are on the ground providing technical assistance to local law enforcement officials. They are not active in the investigation as it is considered a local effort at this point. Additionally, these agents may provide added security to the local hospitals and funerals if requested and needed.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency

The FEMA State Director is contacting the local officials to assess needs in dealing with the ongoing community relations initiatives. FEMA officials involved in the Jonesboro incident have been put in contact with the county sheriff in Littleton. These FEMA personnel will provide guidance and expertise to those in Littleton. Two (2) FEMA Public Affairs officials will travel to Colorado to work with state and county officials.

The Department of Health and Human Services

HHS' Center for Mental Health Services has contacted the Colorado State Mental Health Director to offer assistance with crisis counseling if requested. In addition, the Surgeon General stands ready to provide assistance.

NOTE:

Secretary's Herman, Richardson and Glickman will be speaking to the Conference of Black Mayors tomorrow in Denver, Colorado.



Shootings..doc

Message Sent To:

Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov @ inet
ann.harkins@usdoj.gov @ inet
james.johnson@do.treas.gov @ inet
bill_modzeleski@ed.gov @ inet
esummy@os.dhhs.gov @ inet
Jane.bullock@fema.gov @ inet
Ben_Tucker@ed.gov @ inet



"Thornton, Leslie" <Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov>
04/20/99 05:48:11 PM

Record Type: Record

To: "balderston_k@a1.eop.gov" <balderston_k@a1.eop.gov>, Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP
cc: "Tucker, Ben" <Ben_Tucker@ed.gov>, "Rinck, Sandy" <Sandy_Rinck@ed.gov>
Subject: FW: Shooting

Kris--

Per your request.

P.S. Bill's amazing!

Leslie

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Modzeleski, Bill

> Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 1999 5:46 PM

> To: Thornton, Leslie

> Cc: Johnson, Judith; Modzeleski, Bill; Peterson, Terry; Smith, Mike;

> O'Leary, Ann; Green, Julie; Frank, David; Sullivan, Kevin

> Subject: Shooting

>

> Leslie: We have been in contact with folks from the Office for Victims of
> Crime at Justice and they tell us that they have some of the best trained
> crisis responders in the nation located in the Denver area. They are
> prepared to move to Littleton as soon as they receive a request from the
> superintendent or mayor.

>

> In regards to what we may be able to do I offer the following:

>

> o Link Colorado school officials up with school officials from
> Springfield, and other locations in which there was a multiple homicide.
> The superintendent can provide significant assistance in helping Colorado
> officials cope in the days following the crisis. We can pay for his
> travel and other costs associated with the travel.

>

> o Pay for Crisis Counselors: While we are uncertain about the immediate
> need, we can provide resources to help the school district identify and
> bring in crisis counselors. We can also help the district in long term
> follow up to the disaster. We have had persons work with Springfield,
> Oregon and could provide valuable assistance to the district.

>

> o Identify Expert to Review Policies and Programs: We can identify and
> bring in any expert they want to help them review policies and programs
> designed to prevent school violence.

>

- > o Training and Technical Assistance: We can provide training and
- > technical assistance in range of efforts, ranging from prevention
- > programming to coping with disaster.
- >
- > o Teacher / Staff Follow up: We can provide assistance in helping
- > teachers and other staff cope with the consequences of the disaster.

 - att1.unk



Sean P. O'Shea

04/21/99 12:13:35 PM



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc: Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP, Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: AGENCY EFFORTS UPDATE - COLORADO SHOOTING



Please feel free to contact any of us at 456-2572 with questions.

INTERNAL USE ONLY

April 20, 1999
As of: 11:58 AM

MEMORANDUM FOR WHITE HOUSE STAFF

FROM: THURGOOD MARSHALL, JR.
KRIS M. BALDERSTON

SUBJECT: Agency Efforts on behalf of Littleton, Colorado School Shootings

INCIDENT UPDATE

According to Sheriff Steve Davis, there are fifteen (15) confirmed fatalities; two of which include the suspects. Of the fifteen, eleven (11) are male and four (4) are female. One of the victims is reported to be an adult. In addition, thirty (30) explosive devices were found in the school, one suspect's vehicle in the school parking lot, and in the suspects' residence. Investigators will enter the school this morning and early afternoon to conduct a search and to take photos. After the photos and first search is complete, local officials will commence a major investigation involving agents from several jurisdictions. Sheriff Davis also reported that he will update the press every hour on the half hour.

AGENCY EFFORTS

The Department of Education

Secretary Riley called the Jefferson County School Superintendent this morning to offer any assistance to the community. Specifically, the Secretary outlined joint efforts between the Department of Education, Justice, and HHS to provide crisis counselors and any other assistance that is needed. Additionally, Secretary Riley and the Department of Education (DOEd) provided local officials with contact names and numbers for those officials seeking federal assistance. The DOEd has made the following contacts:

- William Molonoy, Chief State School Officer, Colorado: Judith Johnson called Mr. Molonoy and offered assistance; DOEd will follow-up this afternoon.
- Susan Goren, President, National Association of School Psychologists: Susan offered help of NASP in providing assistance to the school system.
- Jenelle Kruger, Safe and Drug Free Schools Program Coordinator, Colorado: State Education Agency: Assistance of SDFS Program was offered.
- Marleen Wong, Director of Mental Health, Los Angeles Public Schools: Marleen has been instrumental in helping various communities that have experienced crisis similar to Colorado. Marleen offered her help in this effort.
- Kathryn Thurman, Director, Office for Victims of Crime, Department of Justice. OVC and SDFS have joint agreement with National Office for Victims of Crime to form crisis response teams and send those teams where they are needed. Kathryn has been working with community victim advocates and feels that the community is very well prepared to deal with this crisis.

Throughout this afternoon, DOEd is in contact with the Superintendent of Jefferson County schools and find out what assistance is needed. DOEd can offer the following:

- Identification of persons who can provide crisis counseling assistance and payment to get those persons to Colorado.
- Identification of persons who have experienced similar tragedies to provide "hands on" help in days immediately following incident. We can pay for travel and per diem of these persons.
- Identification of persons who can help the school district plan a long-term recovery effort which DOEd is currently working on in Springfield, Oregon. DOEd will pay the costs of getting people to Colorado.
- Identification of Security Experts. Often after such a shooting a school district wants to do a thorough review of its school safety plans, policies, etc. DOEd can help identify a person(s) to conduct such a review and will pay costs of getting person to Colorado.

The Department of Treasury

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), 13 ATF investigators are on the scene in addition to two (2) canine handlers and two (2) explosive enforcement officers. ATF was asked by the County Sheriff to assist in clearing the scene of explosive devices and was concluded at 1:30am Denver time. Seven (7) destructive devices were found in the trunk of one suspect's vehicle and 12 small devices were found inside the school. ATF's crime scene mapping system has also been requested by the County Sheriff. ATF will also be involved in tracing firearms described as two (2) sawed-off shotguns, one handgun and one carbine. In addition, ATF will help canvass explosive licenses in an effort to determine who purchased explosives related to this incident. ATF will send a peer support team, including two chaplains, to provide services to the victims, witnesses and investigators.

The Department of Justice

Along with the ATF, FBI agents are on the ground providing technical assistance to local law enforcement officials. They are not active in the investigation as it is considered a local effort at this point. Additionally, these agents may provide added security to the local hospitals and funerals if requested and needed.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency

The FEMA State Director is contacting the local officials to assess needs in dealing with the ongoing community relations initiatives. FEMA officials involved in the Jonesboro incident have been put in contact with the county sheriff in Littleton. These FEMA personnel will provide guidance and expertise to those in Littleton. Two (2) FEMA Public Affairs officials will travel to Colorado to work with state and county officials.

The Department of Health and Human Services

HHS' Center for Mental Health Services has contacted the Colorado State Mental Health Director to offer assistance with crisis counseling if requested. In addition, the Surgeon General stands ready to provide assistance.

NOTE:

Secretary's Herman, Richardson and Glickman will be speaking to the Conference of Black Mayors tomorrow in Denver, Colorado.



Shootings..doc

Message Sent To: _____

Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
Barry J. Toiv/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joseph P. Lockhart/WHO/EOP@EOP
John Podesta/WHO/EOP@EOP
Douglas B. Sosnik/WHO/EOP@EOP
Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP
Jose Cerda III/OPD/EOP@EOP
Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP
Stacie Spector/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP@EOP
Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sara M. Latham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lawrence J. Stein/WHO/EOP@EOP
Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joshua S. Gottheimer/WHO/EOP@EOP
Janet Murguia/WHO/EOP@EOP
Laura A. Graham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Ron Klain/OVP@OVP
Monica M. Dixon/OVP@OVP
Trooper Sanders/OVP@OVP
Sara M. Latham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP



Sean P. O'Shea

04/21/99 11:06:51 AM



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc: Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP@EOP, Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: COLORADO CALL WITH AGENCIES TODAY



Cabinet Affairs will host a Conference Call with the appropriate agencies (Justice, Education, HHS, FEMA, and Treasury) involved in the coordinated effort in response to the Colorado school shootings.

You may join this call at **3:00p.m., TODAY**, by dialing 757-2104, Code **5564**. If you have any questions in the interim please contact Kris or myself at 6-2572.

Message Sent To:

Sara M. Latham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP
Elizabeth R. Newman/WHO/EOP@EOP
Melissa B. Ratcliff/OVP@OVP
Ron Klain/OVP@OVP
Scott R. Hynes/OVP@OVP
Monica M. Dixon/OVP@OVP



Kris M Balderston

04/20/99 06:11:14 PM



Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: FW: Shooting

This is a memo from Education's Bill Modzelewski on options avail to the CO community.

----- Forwarded by Kris M Balderston/WHO/EOP on 04/20/99 06:08 PM -----



Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov

04/20/99 04:48:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Kris M Balderston@EOP

cc:

Subject: FW: Shooting

Kris--

Per your request.

P.S. Bill's amazing!

Leslie

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Modzeleski, Bill

> Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 1999 5:46 PM

> To: Thornton, Leslie

> Cc: Johnson, Judith; Modzeleski, Bill; Peterson, Terry; Smith, Mike;

> O'Leary, Ann; Green, Julie; Frank, David; Sullivan, Kevin

> Subject: Shooting

>

> Leslie: We have been in contact with folks from the Office for Victims of

> Crime at Justice and they tell us that they have some of the best trained

> crisis responders in the nation located in the Denver area. They are

> prepared to move to Littleton as soon as they receive a request from the
> superintendent or mayor.

>

> In regards to what we may be able to do I offer the following:

>

> o Link Colorado school officials up with school officials from

- > Springfield, and other locations in which there was a multiple homicide.
- > The superintendent can provide significant assistance in helping Colorado
- > officials cope in the days following the crisis. We can pay for his
- > travel and other costs associated with the travel.
- >
- > o Pay for Crisis Counselors: While we are uncertain about the immediate
- > need, we can provide resources to help the school district identify and
- > bring in crisis counselors. We can also help the district in long term
- > follow up to the disaster. We have had persons work with Springfield,
- > Oregon and could provide valuable assistance to the district.
- >
- > o Identify Expert to Review Policies and Programs: We can identify and
- > bring in any expert they want to help them review policies and programs
- > designed to prevent school violence.
- >
- > o Training and Technical Assistance: We can provide training and
- > technical assistance in range of efforts, ranging from prevention
- > programming to coping with disaster.
- >
- > o Teacher / Staff Follow up: We can provide assistance in helping
- > teachers and other staff cope with the consequences of the disaster.



042017CF.TXT



042017CG.TXT

Message Sent To:

Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
Marjorie Tarmey/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sara M. Latham/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lynn G. Cutler/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP
Sean P. O'Shea/WHO/EOP@EOP
Clay Reed/WHO/EOP@EOP
Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP@EOP



"Thornton, Leslie" <Leslie_Thornton@ed.gov>
04/20/99 05:48:11 PM

Record Type: Record

To: "'balderston_k@a1.eop.gov'" <balderston_k@a1.eop.gov>, Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP
cc: "Tucker, Ben" <Ben_Tucker@ed.gov>, "Rinck, Sandy" <Sandy_Rinck@ed.gov>
Subject: FW: Shooting

Kris--

Per your request.

P.S. Bill's amazing!

Leslie

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Modzeleski, Bill

> Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 1999 5:46 PM

> To: Thornton, Leslie

> Cc: Johnson, Judith; Modzeleski, Bill; Peterson, Terry; Smith, Mike;

> O'Leary, Ann; Green, Julie; Frank, David; Sullivan, Kevin

> Subject: Shooting

>

> Leslie: We have been in contact with folks from the Office for Victims of
> Crime at Justice and they tell us that they have some of the best trained
> crisis responders in the nation located in the Denver area. They are
> prepared to move to Littleton as soon as they receive a request from the
> superintendent or mayor.

>

> In regards to what we may be able to do I offer the following:

>

> o Link Colorado school officials up with school officials from
> Springfield, and other locations in which there was a multiple homicide.
> The superintendent can provide significant assistance in helping Colorado
> officials cope in the days following the crisis. We can pay for his
> travel and other costs associated with the travel.

>

> o Pay for Crisis Counselors: While we are uncertain about the immediate
> need, we can provide resources to help the school district identify and
> bring in crisis counselors. We can also help the district in long term
> follow up to the disaster. We have had persons work with Springfield,
> Oregon and could provide valuable assistance to the district.

>

> o Identify Expert to Review Policies and Programs: We can identify and
> bring in any expert they want to help them review policies and programs
> designed to prevent school violence.

>

- > o Training and Technical Assistance: We can provide training and
- > technical assistance in range of efforts, ranging from prevention
- > programming to coping with disaster.
- >
- > o Teacher / Staff Follow up: We can provide assistance in helping
- > teachers and other staff cope with the consequences of the disaster.



- att1.unk



Kris M Balderston

04/20/99 05:38:58 PM



Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
Subject: Re: school shooting 

We have checked with Justice and Education. Education's Safe School's person Bill Modzeleski is on the case. They have already called the State Education Superintendent to offer assistance to the state and city. The Education Department has the flexible funding to assist the school with whatever they need (usually for counsellors). As an example, Education provided a \$10,000 voucher for counselling and travel costs for the Oregon school last year.

Message Copied To:

bruce n. reed/opd/eop@eop
mickey ibarra/who/eop@eop
lynn g. cutler/who/eop@eop
marjorie tarmey/who/eop@eop
Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lisa J. Levin/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mickey Ibarra/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jennifer M. Palmieri/WHO/EOP@EOP