

“Handle With Care”



Proactively supporting & reducing trauma in
City of Harrisonburg's Youth in Public Schools.

Mental Health & Trauma – Its real...

- ✓ Over 20% of America's youth: **diagnosed** with a mental health disorder.
- ✓ Suicide - leading cause of death ages 15-24.
- ✓ Over 70% of youth in juvenile justice systems have a mental illness.
- ✓ 37% of students who suffer from a mental illness drop out of school.
- ✓ Unresolved childhood trauma can lead:
 - ✓ Life of crime,
 - ✓ Depression
 - ✓ Anxiety
 - ✓ PTSD
 - ✓ Other mental illnesses.

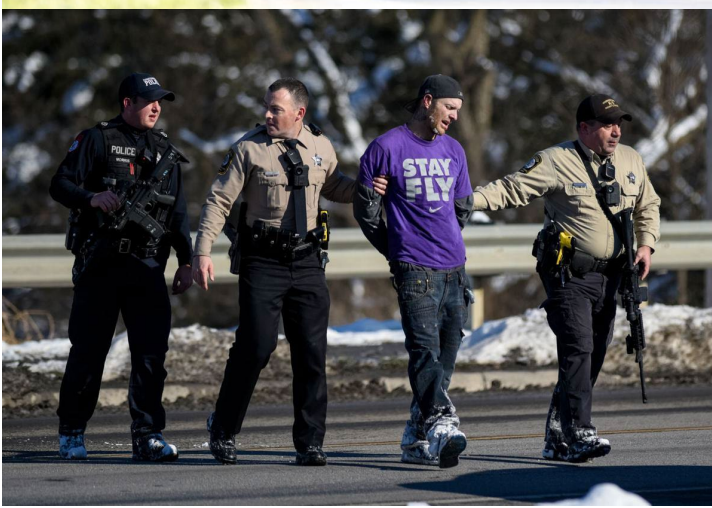


THE VALUE OF EDUCATION





Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's)



What is “Handle With Care”?

GOAL: *To promote safe and supportive homes, schools, and communities that protect children, and help traumatized children heal and thrive.*

Originated Charleston WV Suburb - 2013 (pilot)

- Today: all 55 counties in WV
- Maryland
- Texas
- Georgia
- Australia
- **Virginia: City of Harrisonburg**



West Virginia Center for Children's Justice

A statewide trauma informed response to child maltreatment and children's exposure to violence.

Protection Prevention Education Advocacy Services

Success through collaboration

- What we have done: **Worked to recruit collaboration amongst:**
 - ✓ City Fire Dept
 - ✓ City Police Dept
 - ✓ Harrisonburg Rescue Squad
 - ✓ City of Harrisonburg School System
 - ✓ City Manager's Office
 - ✓ City Attorney's Office
 - ✓ Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center
 - ✓ Harrisonburg-Rockingham Crisis Intervention Program
 - ✓ Harrisonburg-Rockingham Community Services Board

“Handle With Care”

City of Harrisonburg



Project Overview & Implementation Plan

May 20th 2019

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Step 1: Emergency Responders



1. **Arrive at scene:**
 - Police call
 - Fire call
 - Rescue call
2. **Identify school age students (if any) affecting/involved:**
 - Simply obtain **students name and school**
3. As soon as feasible, **HRECC contacted** via phone for a **“Handle With Care Notification”**

Step 2: HRECC



1. “HandleWith Care Notification” received via phone
2. Dispatcher brings up the Alpha Page System, types:

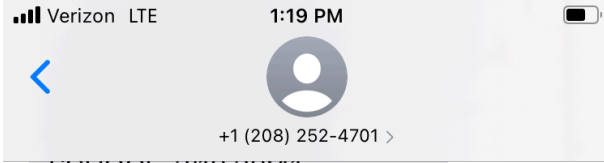
“City HWC: Johnny Doe, Stone Springs Elementary”

That alpha page will be designed to be sent to:

City School Central Office Staff Members (3)

PD SRO’s

HFD CRR & CPP Personnel



SCHOOL 2/10 20:41

Fri, Feb 11, 1:52 AM

HRECC: HANDLE WITH CARE
(CITY): [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], SKYLINE
MIDDLE SCHOOL 2/11 01:51

Mon, Feb 14, 12:53 PM

HRECC: HANDLE WITH CARE
(CITY): [REDACTED]
THOMAS HARRISON MS,
[REDACTED] AND
[REDACTED] STONE
SPRING ES 2/14 12:52

Sunday 3:01 PM

HRECC: HANDLE WITH CARE
(CITY): [REDACTED]
BLUESTONE ELEM SCHOOL
2/20 14:56



Text Message



Step 3: City Central Office & Schools



1. *Central Office:*

- a. Student name and school is validated
- b. School Principal & others notified prior to the start of school

2. *Schools:* put into place for that student for the day(s)

- Being supportive of the student throughout the day
- Gently engaging the student to open communications
- Recognizing the need to consider other resources (School Guidance, etc.)
- Making sure the child has a good day, despite the trauma the day before
- Engaging in Trauma Informed Care & Classroom

The Only Goal:

Make sure the child is Handled With Care at school that day, to make the best of their stressful experience.



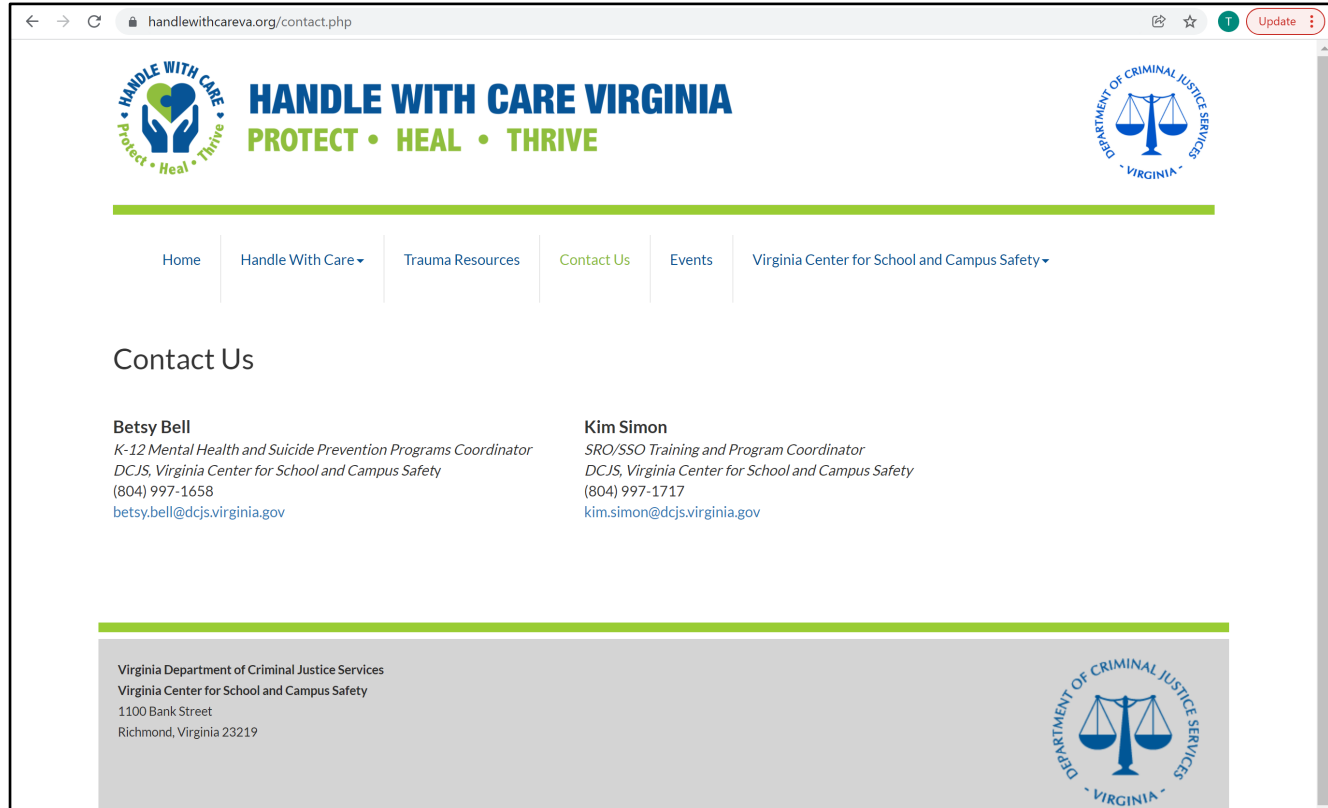
Long Term Effects of “Handle With Care”



Harrisonburg Specifics

- To date, 400+ HWC notifications
- All managed with existing school wrap-around services
- The School Admin, PD, FD, & CIT meet regularly to discuss the program and address quality control
- We share & proud the success stories
- The FD & PD continue to play off each other at scenes
- It does require a renewed boost occasionally.

The Future of HWC in VA





Thank you.



Questions?