PROGRAM CHANGES FOR REGIONAL SAFETY SERVICES

As many of you know, our program has undergone some changes in recent months. In order to serve you, our districts, better we have rewritten our Service Catalog and our Quick Reference Guide. The safety guides can be found at the address below:
http://www.pnwboces.org/Safety.htm

CONSULTANT SERVICES COSER 698.110

Over the last year, we have added several consultants to bring more value to our CoSER. Louis Berger aided many of you with your triennial inspections and with water testing; Miller Environmental Group helped you manage your chemical waste; AF Investigations provided investigative services; CPRed trained staff and students; Hang Up And Drive presented students with a powerful message. We have also partnered with Environmental Maintenance Contractors, Inc., an asbestos abatement company.

This fall, we are introducing Rapid Responder® by Prepared Response. This web-based emergency-response program is supported by the New York State Sheriff’s Association. The program will allow you to upload your plans, maps and photos to a secure site. It allows for instant access to critical information by emergency responders and authorized facility personnel.

During the 2016-2017 School Year, we will be hosting several informative meetings and summits. The first event is our Security Summit to be held on October 6, 2016. More information will follow.

We will also offer various compliance trainings at our Fox Meadow Campus. Currently, we plan to offer two sessions of Right to Know, Blood Borne Pathogens and AHERA Awareness training on October 25, 2016. The cost of this training is included as part of CoSER 698. Please contact Cynthia Braden, at 914-248-2456 to register.
ROLE OF THE CEO (CHIEF EMERGENCY OFFICER)

Under the revisions to the emergency planning regulations and legislation there is a requirement for the board of education to appoint either the Superintendent of Schools or their designee to be the Chief Emergency Officer for each district. Several people have asked our department about this new job title. Below is a summary of the responsibilities of the Chief Emergency Officer taken from the Section 155.17 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

1. Coordinate the communication between school staff, law enforcement and other first responders.
2. Lead the efforts of the district-wide school safety team in the completion and yearly update of the district-wide school safety plan and the coordination of the district-wide safety plan with the building-level emergency response plan.
3. Ensure staff understanding of the district-wide school safety plan.
4. Ensure the completion and yearly update of the building-level emergency response plans for each school building.
5. Assist in the selection of security related technology and development of policies for the use of such technology.
6. Coordinate appropriate safety, security and emergency training for district and school staff, including required training in the emergency response plans.
7. Ensure the conduct of required evacuation and lock-down drills in all district buildings as required by Education Law section 807.
8. Ensure the completion and yearly update of building-level emergency response plans by the dates designated by the commissioner.

EMERGENCY PLAN DUE DATES (REVISED)

September 1 – The date by which the Board of Education must adopt or amend the district-wide school safety plans and the building level emergency response plans, which was delayed from JULY 1 to SEPTEMBER 1 beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

October 15 – The date by which the building level emergency response plans must be submitted to the NYS Police is still within 30 days of adoption and no later than October 15.

October 2016 – Each district must post their District-Wide School Safety Plan on their website and submit the web address/URL to the State as part of the Basic Educational Data System (BEDS).

September 15 – The date by which staff must receive annual school safety and school violence prevention training. This training must include elements about mental health.

Fall 2016 - Building Level Emergency Response Plans may be submitted to the state police through the State Education Department Business Portal. Fall 2017 building level emergency response plans must be submitted to the state police through the State Education Department Business Portal.
SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT-WIDE SAFETY PLAN

By Carol Sneyd, Regional Safety Technician

1. District-Wide School Safety Team shall develop the district-wide plan
2. District-Wide Safety Team shall be appointed by the BOE and include
   • School board member
   • Teacher
   • Administrator
   • Parent organization
   • School safety personnel
3. Plan must be reviewed annually and updated as needed
4. Plan shall be available for public comment 30 days prior to adoption with one public hearing
5. Must include POLICIES and PROCEDURES for:
   • Responding to threats of violence including suicide – must include verbiage to contact parents in case of suicide threat
   • Responding to acts of violence
   • Contacting law enforcement
   • Contacting parents
   • Security
   • Disseminating information on early detection
   • Annual safety training by Sept 15
6. Prevention/Intervention strategies such as:
   • Collaborative agreements with state and local law enforcement designed to ensure that school safety officers are properly trained
   • Nonviolent conflict resolution
   • Peer mediation
   • Programs to increase communication between students and staff regarding potentially violent incidents
   • Extended day or other school safety programs
7. Protocols for:
   • Bomb threat response
   • Hostage taking
   • Intrusion
   • Kidnapping
8. Duties of:
   • Hall monitors
   • Security staff
   • Including training requirements
9. Designate the Chief Emergency Officer including their duties

We are here to help – call Carol Sneyd at 914-248-3854 or email at csneyd@pnwboces.org.