

Minnesota D.A.R.E. Officer's Association
Annual Training Conference
August 7 – 8, 2023 - Stillwater, MN
Hosted by: Washington Co. Sheriff's Office

Prevention & School Safety

Monday – August 7, 2023:

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Registration

9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Prevention, school safety, and D.A.R.E.

Sheriff Dan Starry

Sheriff Starry is a former D.A.R.E. officer and believes in D.A.R.E., community policing, and presentation. **The purpose** of this session is to provide the attendees with reasons why their jobs in the schools are so important. Working closely with Minnesota D.A.R.E. in the training of new D.A.R.E. officers, Sheriff Starry has expanded his program into more schools and more grades. He believes that the relationships formed with students and their families is essential for law enforcement.

Objectives:

- Understand how relationships are formed (students, families, educators, and communities).
- Discuss prevention education on issues facing the local communities.
- Understand how the officers learn about the communities they serve.
- Explain how D.A.R.E. impacts school Safety by providing planning, security, and trust

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Curriculum Updates and Future Plans

Rafael Morales – North Central Regional Director – DARE America

Rafael was an officer for the Connecticut State Patrol for 28 years. He was a D.A.R.E. officer and is currently an international trainer and regional director for D.A.R.E. He was involved in the Sandy Hook school shooting in December 2012. Rafael will be presenting information on D.A.R.E. expansion of curriculum into several enhancement lessons. Information and update will be provided to DARE officers to instruct the new social media, vaping, suicide prevention, and opiate curriculum. He will provide information on the updates coming to the middle school program and teen violence. Rafael will continue to be a part of conference as we move into school safety and will add additional information on lessons learned at Sandy Hook.

The **purpose** of this session is to provide prevention curriculum available to officer to assess in keeping their communities safe.

Objectives:

- Discuss enhancement lessons designed to meet specific issues facing adolescents.

- Update on expansion and evaluation of current core curriculum in the Elementary and Middle Schools.
- Explain current issues: teen violence, fentanyl, synthetic opiates, marijuana, vaping, social media, etc.

Kathi Ackerman – Executive Director Minnesota D.A.R.E will present with Rafael regarding the updates and the impact on Minnesota. More information on Kathi is provided under the Autism section of the training.

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Autism Training – information in additional document

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch Provided

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Autism Training – Information in additional document

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Washington County Attorney’s Office:

Purpose: Washington County Attorney Office will be providing attorneys to update on juvenile laws. (Information on Washington Co. Attorney’s Office – Juvenile Division following.)

- Understand several key issues are impacting our children and schools. Violence, school threats, social media, bullying, marijuana, vaping, and drug overdose are a few of those topics.
- Explain changes that have been made to our Minnesota laws.
- Understand the impact on the schools.
- Discuss how prevention can help.

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Evaluations and Debriefing

Minnesota D.A.R.E. Officer’s Association will handout evaluations for the day and open a discussion on:

Purpose: Provide ideas to implement, plan, and apply information from the day.

- Questions not answered or that came to mind as the day went on.
- How is D.A.R.E. able to help with the topics discussed?
- What can D.A.R.E. do or provide?
- What is your takeaway?
- What can the Minnesota D.A.R.E. Officer’s Association do?
- What will you implement in your community?

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

River Cruise - Dinner

D.A.R.E. networking activity.

Day 2:

Tuesday, August 8

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Registration

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Minnesota D.A.R.E. Officer's Association – **Preparing for the day.**

- Follow up information or questions from yesterday.
- Additional ideas for future planning
- Today's presentation will be focused on school safety issues.

9:15a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

School Threat Assessment – Minnesota School Safety Center

(Information on the Minnesota School Safety Center following)

Purpose to provide a fact-based process that helps schools evaluate and assess potentially threatening students or situations.

- Understand the importance of prevention in the schools – curriculum and programs
- Develop School Safety Planning
 - Breaking the code of silence.
 - Designate a central point of contact.
 - Conducting a threat assessment inquiry.
- Understand the importance of reporting.
- Discuss Minnesota Law
- Understand resources that are available.

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Lunch Provided

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Waseca School Threats – What was learned.

Lt. Officer Angie Grotberg, Waseca Police Department

The Waseca PD has experienced school threats over the past years and had to put their school safety plan in action. The **purpose** of this session to look at past incidents to discuss what was done and what could have been done differently.

- Explain the school safety incident that occurred in Waseca.
- Explain the safety plan and implementation.
- Understand the lessons learned.
- Provide ideas for changes needed.

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

BCA Case Study – The Minnesota BCA is partnered with Minnesota D.A.R.E. As a proud supporter of D.A.R.E. in Minnesota, they annually send agents to speech at the summer conference. Tina Smith from the BCA serves as the liaison to Minnesota D.A.R.E. and is providing agents to speak this year on a case to help provide lessons on juvenile violence. (More information on the BCA partnership following.)

The **purpose** of this session is to provide a case study that will enable officers to visualize a case and develop ideas to provide prevention and reactive planning.

- Explain a Minnesota case.
- Understand the plan and the results.
- Discuss lessons learned.
- Understand prevention planning.

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Evaluation and debriefing

Minnesota D.A.R.E. Officer's Association will handout evaluations for the day and open a discussion on:

Purpose: To help officers discuss information presented and share ideas for implementation.

- Questions not answered or that came to mind as the day went on.
- How is D.A.R.E. able to help with the topics discussed?
- What can D.A.R.E. do or provide?
- What is your takeaway?
- What can the Minnesota D.A.R.E. Officer's Association do?
- Upcoming school year

Summer Conference Partners:

MINNESOTA SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER STATEWIDE TRAINING PROGRAM

The Minnesota School Safety Center cares about the safety of our schools. The MnSSC provides trainings and resources to schools and districts to help them prepare, respond, mitigate, and recover from all hazard emergencies. Additionally, the MnSSC highlights additional online training resources from outside agencies below. MnSSC works with each school to provide individualized trainings to fit the school and district's needs. Trainings are best provided in the schools or districts who request them, the MnSSC teams travels to greater Minnesota as well as the metro area.

Some of their flagship training and collaboration topics currently are:

- Facility/Safe School Assessments

- Emergency Response Plan Review
- De-escalation Training
- Crisis Communications

[Contact](#) any MnSSC representative to discuss working with the team.

Washington Co. Attorney General :

Juvenile Division

The Juvenile Division attorneys carry a caseload of both juvenile prosecution cases and child protection cases. On the juvenile prosecution side, the County Attorney's office reviews all cases committed by minors for offenses committed in Washington County. This includes offenses ranging from petty offenses such as curfew violations to serious felony matters including homicide. As part of the case review, the County Attorney's Office decides whether to refer the juvenile offender to a diversion program or prosecute them in juvenile court. The decision to divert the offender is based on specific criteria established by the office.

The Juvenile Division attorneys also represent Washington County Community Services on child protection cases. These cases involved children in Washington County who have been abused and/or neglected. The County Attorney's office provides legal advice and drafts legal documents for Community Services. The goal of these cases is to keep the child safe and ultimately provide services so that family unity can be maintained or reunited. In cases where the child cannot be safely reunited with the parents, the County Attorney's office will file a Termination of Parental Rights Petition that will sever the parent/child relationship and make the child eligible for adoption. The County Attorney's office may also file petition to transfer custody to a relative in appropriate cases where the child cannot be safely returned to the care of a parent.

The County Attorney's Office also has a truancy program where the office partners with Washington County Community Services, schools, and community agencies to address the issues that lead school absences and school failure. The program seeks to provide information and encouragement to students and parents to steer the student back on the path of regular attendance. The program includes an Attendance Intervention Meeting, a diversion program, and when all else fails the student and parent can be referred to Juvenile Court upon the filing of a Truancy Petition.

MN BCA Staff

The BCA employs more than 300 agents, analysts, scientists, trainers and support staff at its headquarters and lab in St. Paul, its Bemidji regional office and lab, and 11 field offices.

History

The Minnesota legislature created the BCA in 1927 to assist peace officers statewide in solving crimes and apprehending criminals. The division of statistics, a forerunner of the Minnesota Justice Information Services (MNJIS), was added in 1935, as were additional personnel and full police power for the bureau's agents.

The BCA lab became operational in 1947, and the BCA became a part of the newly-created Department of Public Safety in 1969. The BCA established one of the first DNA laboratories in the nation in 1990, and shortly afterward became the first in the nation to identify a suspect based solely on DNA. [Read more about the BCA's history.](#)

Partnerships

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension partners with state and local criminal justice agencies on investigations, Amber Alerts, Crime Alerts and criminal justice data integration. Efforts to improve public safety are also furthered through relationships with federal programs like the FBI, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, the **DARE Program** and more.