

Gun Safety Committee Report – February 2021

Meeting Date: 2/24/21, 3:00 pm

Attending: Vivian Faircloth, Elizabeth Major, Dianna Montoya, Mary Louise Winter

Although Tricia Spencer, Committee Chair, will be unable to attend meetings for the foreseeable future, she has expressed a desire to be kept in the loop and for the Committee to continue to meet. Everyone readily agreed, expressing concern about her health issues and wishing her well.

To that end, each member explained resources they had explored or contacts they made based on resources suggested by Tricia at the January meeting.

Vivian reported on the meeting that she attended with the ECSD regarding violence in the community where several community leaders report their needs and problems, while Mr. Wiggins spoke about the Gun Buy Back Program. Vivian spoke with Ashley McDonald from ECSD and thought we might be able to find a way to assist somehow. She will contact Ashley to find out how we might help.

Dianna found a program sponsored by Harvard School of Public Health called "The Gun Shop" that looks promising (see <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/means-matter/gun-shop-project/>). Mary Louise is going to explore it more and contact the existing Gun Shop group in Alabama for more info. Dianna will contact Ellison Bennett, the community activist that Tricia knows, to see how we might interact or assist with his group/plans regarding gun safety.

Another idea was to start preparing something for Suicide Prevention Month in September to do with Gun Safety, targeting teens and maybe distributing media to schools. Elizabeth will contact Elizabeth Huey from the Santa Rosa County School Board to see what kinds of materials or programs the schools are using in this regard.

Vivian suggested that we also approach Paula Montgomery's Education Committee to see if we can add a question about Suicide Prevention Programs or Threat Assessment Programs in the survey that they are sending to principals regarding Emotional Learning programs.

In discussing what kinds of media we might use, Dianna proposed contacting a company such as Lamar Advertising to see if we could perhaps get them to allow us to use one of their billboards since we are a non-profit. This would give us another source, in addition to social media and print media of some kind.

The Committee members agreed to each move forward with their respective tasks and report back at next month's meeting on March 24th.

Submitted to the Board by Mary Louise Winter, 3/2/21