

What SSWAA Has Done, Is Doing, & Will Do about School Violence

SSWAA has always been concerned about school violence. In the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting in Newtown, CT, SSWAA worked closely with other stakeholder groups to develop *A real fix: The gun-free way to school safety*. It is still available on the web at: https://b.3cdn.net/advancement/78db1dd92e7fc2f6e8_21m6bck09.pdf. We also worked with other specialized instructional support groups to develop *A framework for safe and successful schools*. It is also still available on the NASP website.

For the National School Social Work Conference that we just held in Columbus, OH, we did several things. Jerry Ciffone led a 3-hour pre-conference workshop on Helping Students After a School Shooting or Student Suicide. Amy Klinger, from the Educators' School Safety Network, presented on Straight Talk about School Violence Prevention. Ron Avi Astor, from USC, presented on Using Monitoring and Mapping Methods to Address Bullying and School Climate. Finally, after the Parkland, FL shooting, we added an extra Friday night session on addressing school violence with the above two presenters. Their materials are still available on the SSWAA membership app.

SSWAA also produced a position statement on school violence prevention that was approved by the board on February 21, 2017. As we were asking the state delegates to vote on it, we also shared it with NASW and the Society for Social Work Research (SSWR), in the hopes that all three social work associations could speak with a unified voice. In response to our sharing, NASW referred its membership to the SSWAA website for our document and SSWR shared its own Call to Action which our board signed on to during the conference.

What will SSWAA do in the near future? SSWAA is working on providing a webinar with Dewey Cornell of the University of Virginia about threat assessment developed after the Virginia Tech tragedy. You can find more information about it here: <https://curry.virginia.edu/faculty-research/centers-labs-projects/research-labs/youth-violence-project/virginia-student-threat>. We hope that this is the first in a series of webinars on this topic. SSWAA will also develop a more comprehensive approach this summer at its Delegate Assembly in Charleston, SC. (You don't need to be a delegate to attend.). In the fall, we hope to roll out some regional workshops in areas underserved by state associations.