The Role of the School Resource Officer (SRO) in CUSD

Claremont Unified School District
Corporal Sean Evans
2009 - 2015

Officer Jennifer Ganino
2015 - present
Key Benefits of Partnership Between Claremont Police Department and CUSD Through the Use of a School Resource Officer (SRO)

- Provides **EDUCATION SERVICES**
- Receives **SPECIALIZED TRAINING**
- **EXPERT** in school and juvenile-based investigations
- **ENFORCER** on police related issues
- Assists with each campus’ **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**
- **DETERS** aggressive behavior
- School District **LIAISON**
- Offers **CONSISTENT INVESTIGATIONS**
- **OFFICER AVAILABILITY** / Allows for a fast **RESPONSE TIME**
- **CARE** for the youth in the community
- **FAMILIARITY** with each school’s layout and design
## Statistics Related to the Role of the School Resource Officer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SRO</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>Calls For Service **</td>
<td>156</td>
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<td>226</td>
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<td>Reports</td>
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<td>Arrests</td>
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<td>Citations Issued</td>
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<td>Counseling - Students</td>
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<td>Counseling - Adults</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Special Events &amp; Meetings</td>
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<td>58</td>
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<td>Suicide / Crisis Interventions</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>Classroom Presentations</td>
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<td>166</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>88</td>
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</table>

** Calls for service: Total handled by SRO at CHS, San Antonio, El Roble combined
SRO BACKGROUND and SCHOOL SUPPORT

BRAD CUFF
Assistant Superintendent, Student Services
CUSD SRO

• Began in 2002 as School Community Policing Partnership grant between CUSD and the City of Claremont with goals to:
  • *Reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs*
  • *Reduce anti-social behavior as measured using Search Developmental Assets Survey*
  • *Reduce juvenile arrests and increase attendance for high-risk youth*

• At the end of the three-year grant, the Board and Police Commission reviewed the SRO activity log and student survey results and recommended to continue to jointly fund the SRO

• Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)
  • *Prior to 2010 Conducted by a DARE Officer*
  • *In 2010 DARE was made part of the SRO responsibilities*
SUPPORT FOR ALL SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

• Comprehensive School Safety and Support
  • Provides input to each school safety plan
  • Participates and provides feedback on active shooter drills at each school site

• Threat Assessments
  • Tracks down the source of the threat to determine if it is credible
  • Directs the individual to necessary supports or services

• Concerns related to attendance

• Child Abuse Investigations
  • Assists school in complicated situations that require multiagency support for the student/family

• Event Safety
SUPPORTING ELEMENTARY STUDENTS & FAMILIES

- Does informal playground visits to build rapport with students
- Shares strategies on how students might handle difficult situations
- Lets students know they can reach out to her for help
- Provides her contact information as a resource at school events
- Investigates child abuse and neglect
- Performs wellness checks
- Investigates missing children reports
- Custody disputes
- Does bicycle safety presentations
- Organizes good citizen lessons, and
- Stranger danger lessons
SRO SUPPORT
MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

DR. SEAN DELGADO
El Roble Intermediate School Principal
**SUPPORTING MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION**

- **Safety**: Most important role of the SRO is to protect people from hurting themselves, hurting others, or being hurt themselves. At both schools, the SRO
  - *Works with 5150 cases, where there is the threat of harm*
  - *Investigations involving theft, abuse, threats of violence*
  - *Works with investigations involving narcotics (i.e., distribution and sales)*
  - *Sexual trafficking, child abuse, and domestic violence*
  - *Keeping the peace*
- **Resource**: Staff, Students AND Parents—all request SRO Services.
THE STORIES

• “Steve”—tore out of campus suicidal and manic. He was followed by SRO and 5150’d. His relationship with her led to a positive outcome.

• “Frank”—arrested for belligerence/battery on a police officer, and then sought SRO at school to acquire procedural guidance.

• “Pat”—a minor (with an adult) immediately requested the SRO while being arrested by another officer.

• “Gina”—abused, utilized SRO as a liaison to follow-up on her case with CPD.
SRO SUPPORT AT CHS

DR. BRETT O’CONNOR
Claremont High School Principal
SRO ROLE AT CHS

• CHS conducts investigation
• If CHS believes a crime has been committed the SRO is contacted and the SRO does their own investigation
• Most instances when the SRO determines a crime has been committed, the SRO issues a citation
• The SRO does not conduct the classroom visits with the drug dog. CUSD contracts with a company called Interquest Canine Detection
SRO IS LIAISON BETWEEN CHS & CPD

• CHS regularly receives information of potential problems that we are unable to share with the public
• Many of these potential problems never become problems because of our working relationship with SRO
• The SRO has a better understanding of teens and the challenges they face than most patrol officers
• The SRO understands the culture of CHS and because of the SRO’s involvement at elementary schools with DARE the SRO has positive relationships with many of our students
SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS IN NEED

• CHS holds weekly meeting to discuss students who are struggling academically, emotionally, or have poor school attendance

• The meetings are comprised of CHS counselors, CHS school psychologists, CHS school therapists, school nurse as well as CHS administration

• As we discuss each student case, we try to come up with the best course of action to support the student

• Sometimes the students we talk about require the SRO to facilitate and coordinate with other agencies to make sure our students are in a safe place
COUNSELING SUPPORT

Nicki Mitchell
CHS Counseling Department
SRO and Suicide Prevention in CUSD

Lisa Banks-Toma, LMFT, PPSC
CUSD Mental Health Coordinator
• Oversight of CUSD Mental Health Services and Programs

• CUSD Mental Health Staff 2020-2021:
  • 5 Licensed Therapists
  • 15 Masters Level Student Interns

• The SRO is a critical member of the student crisis team in CUSD
STEPS FOR STUDENT SAFETY WHILE ON CRISIS

• First Step: School mental health professional assesses student and then if needed SRO assesses student (second step) according to the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act and Welfare Institution Code 5585.

• The LPS Act is an assessment that determines if a student is a danger to self, others, or gravely disabled

• Every attempt is made to keep the student safe and cared for during the crisis. Parents are informed and included in the process to help provide assurance and support to their student

• Depending on the assessment of the SRO, transportation to the nearest Emergency Room or Behavioral Health Center is decided
PARTNERSHIPS ARE IMPORTANT

• CUSD crisis team procedures recently discussed by our students and community due to SRO involvement

• **The Three T’s** help explain the importance of the SRO in our suicide prevention plan:
  • **Training**: The SRO is a fully integrated member of our team
  • **Timeliness**: SRO response times are quick and seamless as we have done this together numerous times
  • **Trust**: SRO, students, and school mental health professionals have history. The SRO sees herself as a part of the CUSD Team, school, and community
NEXT STEPS IN STUDENT SAFETY

• Hospitalization

• Return From Hospital Meeting

• Ongoing Supports
QUESTIONS?