

VT Gun Shop Project

VT Department of Mental Health

VT Center for Health & Learning

VT Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Who Is The Federation?

- Established in Vermont in 1875
 - Wildlife Conservation and Management
- We pre-date VT F&W
 - We helped form them
- Approximately 45 member clubs in VT
 - Over 10,000 members
- We work closely with VT F&W
 - Rules, Regulations and Laws
 - Operation Game Thief
 - Provide Grants, Range Reviews
- We Lobby the Legislature on Sporting Issues
- Sister Organization: Fund For Conservation & Training

Overview

- VT Gun Shop Project is modeled after NH
 - New Hampshire Firearm Safety Coalition (1994)
 - Members Included:
 - Gun Shops
 - Ranges
 - Legislators
 - Mental Health Advocates
 - Researchers and Volunteers

Genesis of NH Gun Shop Project

- Riley's Gun Shop
 - Across one week in 2009, three un-related people each bought a firearm
 - Each then went home and committed suicide within hours
 - NH Medical Examiner brought this to NHDMMH
 - Small group of retailers and mental & public health officials began meeting
 - This group was later brought into the NHFSC

Introduction to Vermont

- *Reducing Suicide Risk by Limiting Access to Lethal Means* - October 2014
 - Authored by VT Center for Health & Learning
- VTFSC became aware of this in early 2105
 - Report forwarded to us by Anne Donahue
- VTFSC established contact w/Alex Potter (VCIL)
- VTFSC spoke extensively with Elaine Franks
 - Co-chair of the NHFSC

Gun Shop Project “Transplants”

- Tennessee
- Nevada
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Colorado
- New York
- Various counties
- ...

What is the Project?

- Outreach on Suicide Prevention
 - Gun Shops / Federal Firearm License holders (FFLs)
 - Sporting Clubs
 - Shooting Ranges
 - Gun Shows
- From Sportspeople to Sportspeople
- Issue Awareness

VT Gun Shop Material

- Posters
- Handouts
- Purchasing Checklist
- Tips for Firearms Sellers
- Tips for Range Owners & Operators
- Wallet Cards
- Sample Letter of Agreement to Hold Firearms

Current Status

- VTFSC has reviewed NH Materials
 - Made Vermont Specific
 - NH references changed to VT references
- VTFSC had some questions on Policy
 - Resolved (Thank You Alex)
- VTFSC turning material over to VCIL/VDMH
 - Some Material specific to Adobe InDesign
- Final Review of Material
- Printing

Roll Out

- Upcoming Gun Shows
 - VTFSC & Gun Owners of Vermont (booths)
 - Yankee Sportsman's Classic, Barre, Morrisville...
- Gun Shops & FFLs (approximately 350)
 - Personal visits & mailings
- Sporting Clubs & Ranges
 - Personal visits & mailings

Questions

