

National District Attorneys Association



HANDLE WITH CARE

San Diego

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DISCLAIMER

- This project is supported by Grant #2019-MU-MU-K002 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.
- The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.

PRIORITIES

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP),
Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice

- Treating Children as Children
- Serve Children at Home, with their Families, In their Communities
- Open up Opportunities for Young People Involved in the Justice System

Why the DA's Office is involved

Program description and goals

Design and Implementation of the
program in San Diego

Sample notifications

**WHAT IS
HANDLE WITH
CARE?**

**PRESENTATION
OVERVIEW**

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - MISSION



**District Attorney
Summer Stephan**



**ETHICALLY AND
FAIRLY PROSECUTE
CRIMINALS**



PROTECT VICTIMS



PREVENT CRIME



Communication Tool



Law Enforcement alert school and school district when contact school-aged child exposed to a traumatic event; teacher notified before school starts the next day



Message: Handle with Care

**WHAT IS
HANDLE
WITH CARE?**

PROGRAM GOAL

Provide notice to school officials so that they can serve as silent observers and provide trauma informed support to children exposed to trauma to help them achieve despite their circumstances.



Our community uses
Handle with Care
so all children can feel safe and learn.



What is Handle with Care? If a law enforcement officer encounters a school-aged child during a call that could be traumatic to him or her, the child's name and three words: HANDLE WITH CARE are forwarded to the student's school and school district before school starts the next day. The purpose is to ensure that children who experience trauma are "Handled with Care" to reduce the negative effects experienced by exposure to trauma.

San Diego County District Attorney

WHY HWC?

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): 60 % children exposed to some sort of trauma
- Research shows that trauma can undermine children's ability to learn, to form relationships and to function appropriately in the classroom
- Result truancy, suspensions, expulsions, juvenile justice system



Benefits of Handle with Care

Improves cross-agency communication among first responders and schools.

The result is increased support for students experiencing trauma.

The use of trauma-sensitive strategies by educators and school leaders will lead to improved education and future life outcome for students experiencing trauma as a result of their adverse childhood experiences.



**SAN DIEGO
COUNTY
DISTRICT
ATTORNEY'S
OFFICE**

2018

FOCUS

- Focusing on Children Under Stress
- Stanislaus County, CA

Handle with Care

- West Virginia

SIMILAR PROGRAMS

In 2012 Handle with Care was created in a subcommittee of the West Virginia Children's Justice Task Force in Partnership with the U.S. Attorneys Office for the Southern District of West Virginia as part of a Defending Childhood Initiative

*Monthly National HWC meetings led by West Virginia

West Virginia

2012 – HWC was created

2021- HWC in 40 states

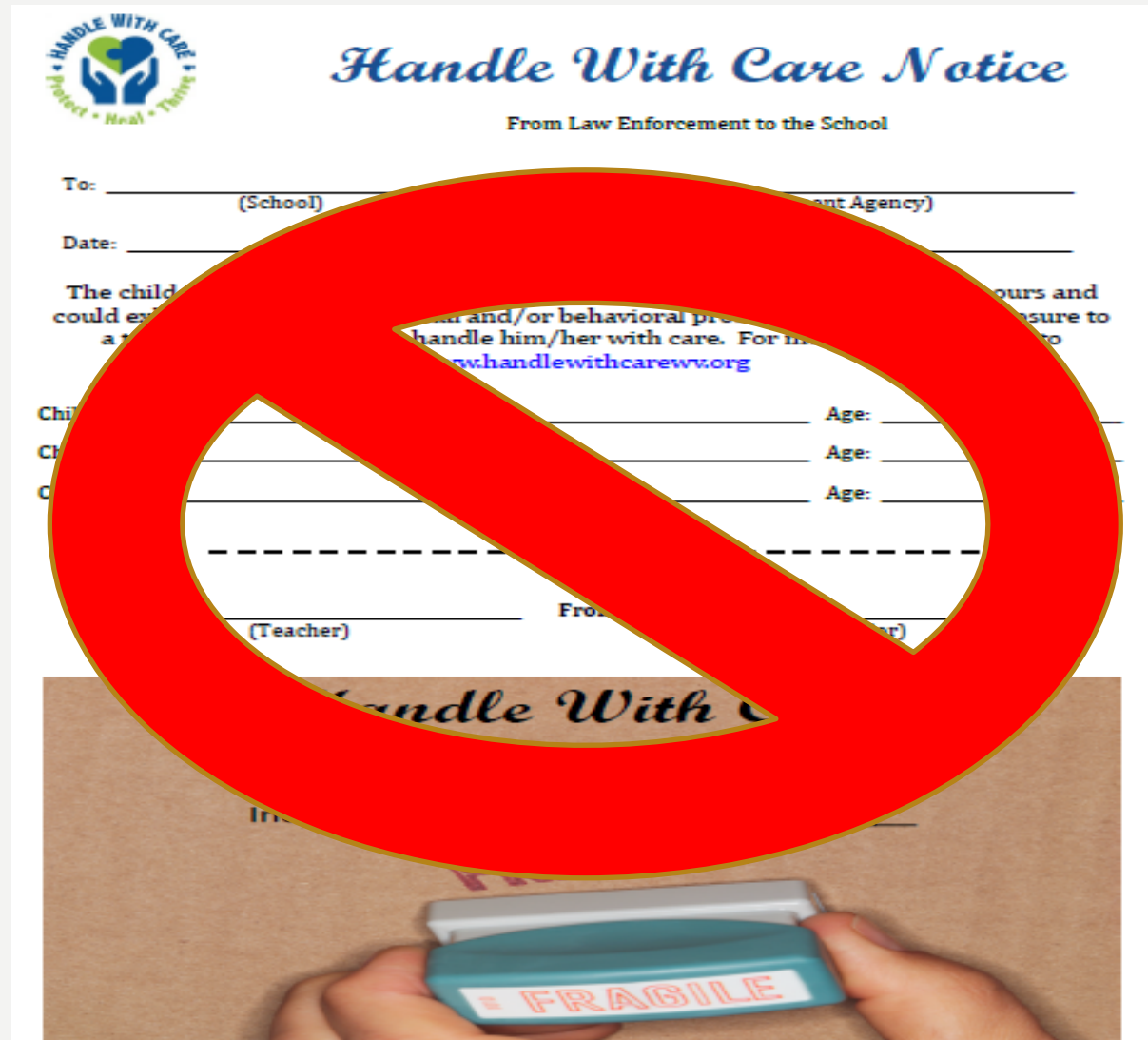
HANDLE WITH CARE

WEST VIRGINIA

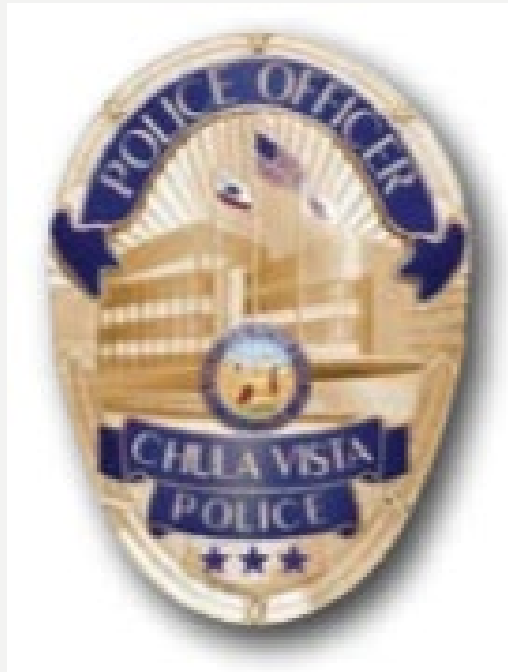
**CENTER FOR
CHILDREN'S JUSTICE**

West Virginia Contact:
Andrea Darr
Director, WV Center for
Children's Justice
Andrea.L.Darr@wvsp.gov

SDCDA Developed App



**HWC PILOT PROGRAM
IN
SAN DIEGO**



SAN DIEGO COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS



GETTING STARTED

1

Train interested school districts using the train the trainer model.

2

Train the corresponding Law Enforcement Agency.

3

Goal is to have the program throughout San Diego County.

HANDLE WITH CARE SCHOOL TRAINING

DO

1. Provide empathy and sensitivity to what the student **MAY** be experiencing
 2. Practice patience and compassion
 3. Show care instead of consequences
 4. Give grace-consider offering time for a quick nap in nurses office or second chances
-

DON'T

1. **ASK QUESTIONS**-the event does not change our response
2. Don't play the role of investigator
3. Discuss HWC notification with student
4. Don't share notifications with others

**Police
Training**



**Who is the
HWC program
for?**

**SCHOOL-AGED TK-12
TRAUMATIC**

WHAT IS TRAUMA?

Trauma is an umbrella term used to describe the inability of an individual or a community to respond in a healthy way physically, emotionally, and mentally to acute or chronic stress.

POLICE TRAINING

“TRAUMATIC INCIDENT”



What is a traumatic incident?



When are Handle with Care notifications sent?

HANDLE WITH CARE APP

SAMPLE NOTIFICATIONS

- WEB-BASED SYSTEM
- CREATE SHORTCUT

**POLICE VIEW:
SENDING A
NOTIFICATION**

FIRST STEP







Handle With Care

Officer Login

To login enter your ARJIS number:

And first 3 characters of your email:

POLICE VIEW: SENDING A NOTIFICATION

No SIM   12:45 PM  74% 

apps.sdcda.org

(*)=Required.

Filter By City/Community:

Chula Vista

***Select School:**

Castle Park - Chula Vista

Student Identity

***First Name**

Jane

***Last Name**

Doe

Middle Name

Middlename

Date of Birth

MM/DD/YYYY

Grade Level

5th

Other optional Identifiers (ie. a teachers name, ...)

Other Identifiers

Send Handle with Care Notification

POLICE VIEW: SENDING A NOTIFICATION

No SIM 12:52 PM 74%
apps.sdcca.org

Log off
Handle With Care

Send Notification

Your notification has been sent to 3 Admins at Castle Park - Chula Vista school and its District Office. (*)=Required.

Filter By City/Community:

Chula Vista

***Select School:**

Castle Park - Chula Vista

Student Identity

***First Name**

John

***Last Name**

Doe

Middle Name

Middlename

Date of Birth

Handle With Care Notification - t x +

mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgxwDqnqkJPgkCNSSGRHkpvdKbbg

Gmail Search mail

Compose

Inbox 5

Starred

Snoozed

Sent

Drafts

More

Something's not right.

We're having trouble connecting to Google. We'll keep trying...

This may be caused by network or proxy issues. [Learn more](#). Please try accessing [Hangouts](#) directly.

Errors: 301

Enable desktop notifications for Gmail. OK No thanks X

Handle With Care Notification Inbox x

1 of 9

webteam@sdcca.org 12:47 PM (12 minutes ago) ☆

To view the notification go to the following link: <https://apps.sdcca.org/HandleWithCare/home/viewNotifications?...>

webteam@sdcca.org 12:52 PM (7 minutes ago) ☆ ↶ ⋮

To view the notification go to the following link: <https://apps.sdcca.org/HandleWithCare/home/viewNotifications?UID=eca0c4ad-87be-4e46-bf60-973d558ee7df>

Reply Reply all Forward

SCHOOL
SITE
VIEW

Handle With Care - San Diego | X

apps.sdca.org/HandleWithCare/Home/ViewNotifications/

Hello, jeffrey.george@sdca.org | Log off

Handle With Care

Notifications My Profile Manage

Handle With Care Notifications for Agency Test School1

Notification Id	1208
From Agency	Heartland Fire and Rescue
School	Test School1
Student Last Name	Doe
Student First Name	John
Student Middle Name	
Student Other Id	
Status	Viewed
Created	9/30/2020 2:26:39 PM

Please update the following administrative and demographic information for this student:

Teacher Notified:

Grade Level:

DOB:

Gender:

Race Or Ethnicity:

[Update](#) ← Click to save your changes.

	From Agency	School	Status	Date Sent
Click to view #1208	Heartland Fire and Rescue	Test School1	Viewed	9/30/2020 2:26:39 PM
Click to view #1173	El Cajon Police Department	Test School1	Submitted	9/3/2020 5:57:38 AM
Click to view #1173	El Cajon Police	Test School1	Submitted	9/3/2020 5:40:00 AM

SCHOOL VIEW



Handle With Care

Notifications My Profile Manage ▾

Handle With Care Notifications for Agency Test School 2

	<u>From Agency</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Date Sent</u>
Click to view #1348	San Diego County District Attorney	Test School 2	Viewed	3/8/2021 6:24:05 PM
Click to view #1347	San Diego County District Attorney	Test School 2	Submitted	3/8/2021 6:23:32 PM
Click to view #1312	El Cajon Police Department	Test School 2	Submitted	2/10/2021 7:12:48 AM

NOTICES



Hello, jeffrey.george@sdccda.org !

Log off

Handle With Care

Notifications My Profile Manage ▾

History for Notification #1348

ActionDTS	Action	FirstName	LastName	AgencyName	Email
3/8/2021 6:24:05 PM	NotificationSentBy			San Diego County District Attorney	
3/8/2021 6:24:23 PM	ViewedByUser	Jeff	George	Test School 2	jeffrey.george@sdccda.org

**DISTRICT
VIEW-NOTICE
DETAIL**

HANDLE WITH CARE IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

42 School Districts in San Diego County as well as 150 Charter Schools.

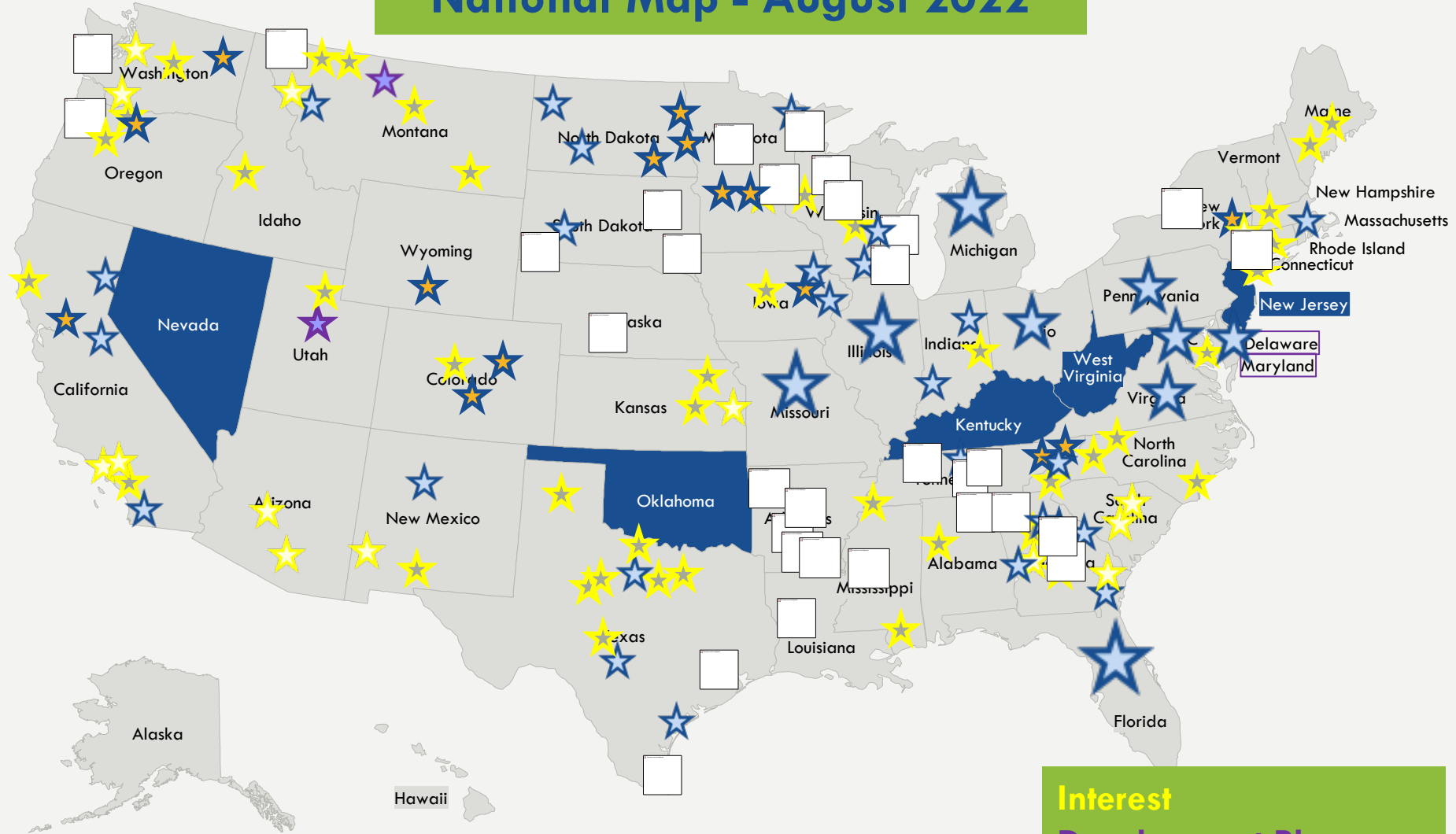
Train school districts first – Then train law corresponding LE agency.

Goal is to have the program throughout San Diego County.

In a 6-month period, there were over 600 notifications.

In San Diego County, there are year-round schools and schools with traditional schedules.

Handle with Care National Map - August 2022



Interest
Development Phase
Active

INTEREST IN HANDLE WITH CARE

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Alaska

Fairbanks, Alaska

- Phoenix, Arizona

- Tucson, Arizona

- Antelope Valley, California

- Los Angeles, California

Mendocino County, California

Orange County, California

- Idaho Springs, Colorado

- Hartford, Connecticut

- Stamford, Connecticut

- Delaware State Police

Brevard County, Florida

Charlotte City, Florida

Hendry County, Florida

- Orange County, Florida

- Pensacola, Florida

- St. Augustine, Florida

- Atlanta, Georgia

Eastman, Georgia

Spalding County, Georgia

- Hawaii

- Boise, Idaho

- Illinois

- Berwyn, Illinois

DeKalb County, Illinois

DuPage, Illinois

Litchfield, Illinois

- Park Ridge, Illinois

- Indiana

- Muscatine County, Iowa

- Kansas

- Kansas City, Kansas

- Osage County, Kansas

- Topeka, Kansas

- Gardner, Massachusetts

- North Adams, Massachusetts

- Wareham, Massachusetts

- Minnesota

- Carlton County, Minnesota

- Minneapolis, Minnesota

- St. Paul, Minnesota

- Mississippi

- Clinton, Mississippi

- Montana

- Billings, Montana

- Jefferson City, Montana

- Lincoln County, Montana

- Missoula, Montana

- Shelby, Montana

- Teton County, Montana

- Las Cruces, New Mexico

- Lordsburg, New Mexico

- New York

- Hudson, New York

- New York City, New York

- NYC Police Department, New York

- White Plains, New York

- Charlotte, North Carolina

- Hickory, North Carolina

- Rockingham County, North Carolina

- Ohio – Over 10 Counties in Ohio

- Oregon

- Portland, Oregon

- The Dalles, Oregon

- Allentown, Pennsylvania

- Downingtown, Pennsylvania

- Fayette County, Pennsylvania

- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

- York County, Pennsylvania

- Columbia, South Carolina

- Lexington, South Carolina

- Tennessee

- Greeneville, Tennessee

- Memphis, Tennessee

- Smyrna, Tennessee

- Williamson County, Tennessee

- Amarillo, Texas

- Austin, Texas

- Irving, Texas

- Plano, Texas

- Murray, Utah

- Clark County, Washington

- Seattle, Washington

- Wenatchee, Washington

- Washington DC

- Altoona, Wisconsin

- Madison, Wisconsin

- Australia

- Bonaire

- The Netherlands

HWC - STATE COORDINATORS

- Delaware, Pat Chapman, patricia.chapman@delaware.gov
- Florida, Dr. Linda Thompson, lthompson@drugfreemanatee.org
- Georgia, Erin Eslinger, Erin@pathway2life.org
- Indiana, Chelsie Irwin, Clirwin@health.in.gov
- Kentucky, Danielle Perkins, Danielle.Perkins@ky.gov
- Massachusetts, Edward Jacoubs, ejacoubs@gmail.com
- Michigan, Christopher Robinson, RobinsonC15@michigan.gov
- Missouri, Tammy Walden, tammy@mjja.org

HWC - STATE COORDINATORS

- North Carolina, Colleen Raper, Colleenraper1@yahoo.com
- Ohio, Robyn Venoy, Robyn.Venoy@hotewellhealth.org
- Oklahoma, Adrienne Elder, info@handlewithcareok.org
- San Diego, CA, Brooke Tafreshi, brooke.tafreshi@sdca.org
- South Carolina, Michelle Cunningham, Michelle.Cunningham@dss.sc.gov
- Tennessee, Evangeline Watanabe, Evangeline@tacp.org
- Virginia, Betsy Bell, betsy.bell@dcjs.virginia.gov



HANDLE WITH CARE - SUMMARY

Provides teachers with a heads up.

Allows kids to thrive in school,
despite their circumstance.

Strengthens and improves
relationships in the community.

Improves academic, social-emotional
and behavior outcomes for kids!

HWC - QUESTIONS

How do we start a program like this?

How can a prosecutors' office take part in this program?

What about confidentiality?

What are special considerations when dealing with cases where the juvenile is both a victim and an offender?

What if we lack financial resources?

What realistic cost is involved in implementation?

Is there ongoing follow-up or support for students identified?

How do you build the relationships between schools and law enforcement? Where does the relationship begin?

How can this work in our local communities with confidentiality from the schools? What about MOUs?

Brooke E. Tafreshi

Deputy District Attorney

Community Partnership Prosecutor

**San Diego County District
Attorney's Office**

Brooke.Tafreshi@sdcca.org

