It’s No Minor Issue
Taking Responsibility for Programs with Children at Your Campus
Panel Introductions

• Amy Thomas, Director for Safety & Risk Management at Stan State

• Candace Collins, Director of Higher Education at Praesidium

• Provost James Strong, Stan State

• Vice President Douglas Dawes, Stan State
Panel Presentation Objectives

• Assessing the risk of hosting minors

• How to start managing the risk of programs with minors

• Lessons Learned
For Example: Stanislaus State

- Over 9,000 students
- Over 1,000 employees
- Over 100 academic majors, minors and concentrations
- 25 graduate programs, including a doctorate in educational leadership
- Host over 50 programs with minors serving over 1,400 children
Building on a Strong Foundation

Are your head AND heart into it?

• The ethics of doing the right thing for children
• It cannot only be about reducing liability
• Commit time and energy
• Find champions at the top
Program Assessment

• Inventory
• Tools for assessment
The Paradigm for Prevention
The Praesidium Safety Equation®

- Policies
- Screening and Selection
- Training
- Monitoring and Supervision
- Internal Feedback Systems
- Consumer Awareness
- Responding
- Administrative Practices

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT
Getting a Handle on Your Risk

What is your campus doing with minors?

Centrally track
Basic spreadsheets will do

Obvious programs
Athletics, academics, tours, public events

Secondary programs
3rd party rentals, department hosted tours/visits
Getting a Handle on Your Risk

What needs attention first?
The art of triage (a.k.a. risk assessment)

Who’s supervising the children?
Are parents present?
Background checks?

Who said it was okay?
Go to the highest level with concerns and wise advice
Legal Issues

Be prepared for the worst

Common Claims in Litigation

• Negligent screening
• Negligent training
• Negligent supervision
• Negligent retention
Inventory done! Now what?

Securing support from the top

Policy making

Accountability lines

Building relationships
Lessons Learned

Take advantage of the Praesidium partnership with the CSU

Use existing materials

Think long term and ongoing
Lessons Learned

Continue support lines from the top

Policy and procedure flexibility

Central coordination

Time, energy, commitment
Lessons Learned

Know your audience

Stay in Touch

Praise your programs
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