



June 20, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

*Response to an Active Assailant* is an excellent professional development opportunity.

Through NCCSafe, Lois Blevins delivers a presentation that includes a brief history of active assailant events that provides context for the current response model. She covers Run, Hide, Fight. She also covers NCCSafe's own model ACT (Assess the threat. Cover yourself. Take action.) She involves a panel of experts and survivors to supplement her presentation and address questions. Our panels included a Naval behavioral psychologist and Howard County Sheriff McMahon.

Two aspects make her presentation particularly valuable. First is the panel of experts (including Ms. Blevins' own lifetime of law enforcement experience.) Each panelist takes the time to address specific questions and concerns from participants. The other aspect is Ms. Blevins' unique perspective of empowerment. The subject matter can be alarming and anxiety-inducing, but participants said they left feeling empowered to make decisions and take action should they ever be in an active assailant situation.

In the fall of 2017, we were able to educate all 300 of our staff members, from management team members to hourly staff, in four three-hour sessions. Ms. Blevins was very supportive before and after the classes. She accommodated our scheduling needs, adjusted her presentation style based on participant feedback, and ensured each participant had a certificate of completion.

I would highly recommend this presentation.

Sincerely,

Katie George

Professional Development Instructor

Howard County Library System