

NOTES

August 13, 2019
1:30 – 3:30 PM
CDPS Complex
700 Kipling St., Lakewood
Fourth Floor Training Room



COLORADO
School Safety Resource Center
Department of Public Safety

Meeting Attendees:

Advisory Board Members:

In Person:

Lynne DeSousa	Kathy Plomer
Essi Ellis	Mark Pokorny
Steve Fast	Meghan Shelton
Jamie Haukeness	Carolena Steen
Matt Lewis	George Welsh
Lorrie Odom	Chris Wilderman

On the Phone:

Dave Young
Melanie Voegeli-Morris

Absent:

Greg Busch	
Jenny Schoen	Kelly Jacobsen

Staff Present:

Chris Harms, Director
Dustin Hunter, School Outreach Consultant
Margaret Ochoa, CSA Prevention Specialist
Melissa Rubeo, Program Assistant
Isaac Baah, Resource Specialist

Staff Absent:

Brad Stiles, Emergency Response Outreach Consultant who was on medical leave.

Welcome and Advisory Board Business – *Christine Harms, Director*

- The meeting was called to order at 1:38 PM by Chris Wilderman who as Secretary was acting Chair with the departure of Jarrod Hindman. Introductions were conducted.
- Meeting notes from April 2, 2019, were approved as written.
- Christine Harms informed the board that as required by the by-laws, a Chair and Secretary must be elected this meeting. A motion was made by Christine Harms, seconded by George Welsh and carried to elect Chris Wilderman as Board Chair. Steve Fast volunteered to serve as Secretary and the board unanimously agreed.
- Isaac Baah, the new Resource Specialist with the Center introduced himself and shared his experience working with the Boy Scouts in Ghana.

- Christine Harms directed the Board's attention to the schedule for upcoming meetings listed on the agenda. She also shared the upcoming Summit agenda while reminding the Board that they are encouraged to attend the training at no charge by simply contacting staff.

CSSRC Activities - Staff

- **Hiring of New Staff:**

- Ms. Harms shared with the Board that a 1331 budget request was submitted by our office to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) at the request of the Governor's office. The proposal was for four regional training coordinators to support rural schools in the four quadrants of the state. This request was granted utilizing funds in the CSSRC Cash Fund as a result of the school safety grants managed by the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM). The positions were approved for three years and at the end of the three years, the Center will be required to provide evidence to the legislature that these positions proved advantageous to the rural schools. Unfortunately, facility funding was not included with the request so the Center will work with other offices after the ideal staff are selected to find locations where staff can be "housed".
- Lynne DeSousa requested that the Center share the information related to the North West region to the Board members so they can help distribute the job posting to find the best individual for the position.

- **Legislative School Safety Interim Committee**

- Chris Wilderman provided his update on the School Safety Legislative Interim Committee. He stated that he is remaining optimistic but felt that so far, the testimonies of subject matter experts felt similar to the SB15-214 committee work. There is a second meeting of the School Safety Interim Committee on August 20, 2019, which he will attend and report back to the Advisory Board at the next meeting.
- Essi Ellis stated that the August 20, 2019, meeting is expected to include a panel including Safe2Tell.
- Christine Harms stated she will also be addressing the committee and has been asked to supply a list of state agencies that touch school safety. This list of agencies are ones we collaborate with to ensure work is not being duplicated.
- Kathy Plomer stated that the legislature is giving the public an opportunity to digitally provide their perspectives for this as well.

- **STOP Violence Grant submission**

- This was submitted by CSSRC in collaboration with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV).
- Christine Harms informed the Board that this grant application was submitted for approximately \$1,000,000 to refine the Threat Assessment protocol, template, and training. If the grant application is approved, our office would work closely with CSPV to revise the materials and pilot the new documents in trainings around the state of Colorado.
- A decision on the grant is expected by October 2019.

- **Meetings with other Colorado School Safety Partners**

- Christine Harms informed the Board that she was contacted by John McDonald who works with the Jefferson County School District to speak about a project on which he hoped the Center would want to collaborate. Mr. McDonald and Ms. Harms discussed a number of ideas including monthly presentations on school safety, finding a way to provide substitute teachers so the full-time teachers could attend trainings, and additional crisis response trainings appropriate for law enforcement

professionals. Additionally, both Mr. McDonald and Ms. Harms agreed that a more established protocol, training and leadership in the aftermath of a school tragedy is needed in Colorado.

- **2019 New Online Courses:**
 - Margaret Ochoa provided an update on the new online course she designed for the Center. The training was created due to an identified gap in training related to managing juveniles that have committed sexual offenses in a school setting. This course also reminds the participants that schools have a constitutional requirement to provide an education to these students.
 - Dustin Hunter provided an update on the new online course he designed for the Center. This training was created to provide basic information about marijuana in Colorado for educators. Most of the information, statistics and recommendations were pulled from state agency sources. The course walks through statistics of use in Colorado vs. national use, the basic science of the effects marijuana has on the brain, recommendations on how to have a conversation with a student regarding their use, and more.
- **Emergency Preparedness Resource for Schools:**
 - Christine Harms provided an update on behalf of Brad Stiles who was unable to attend the meeting. Over the past few months Mr. Stiles has been putting informational blurbs on our E-Updates with regard to emergency management.
 - Since then, he has compiled all of the information into a quick emergency response guide for educators. This guide was one piece of information Christine Harms was able to share with the twenty-five new superintendents in the state with whom she met with recently.
- **Suicide Assessment Update:**
 - Dustin Hunter is reviewing suicide assessment tools from various school districts in an effort to write a sample assessment. He has coded the different types of questions that were being asked in each document, identified which are the most common, identified which are the most important and combined them into a single document.
 - This will be reviewed by the Suicide Prevention Working Committee of the CSSRC and then made available for training purposes in any district.
- **Resource Guides Updated:**
 - Ms. Harms informed the Board that the five Resource Guides of the Center have been updated from last year's versions.
 - Hard copies of the Resource Guides are available in our office, or on our website as a PDF. Center staff are hoping to be able to create guides for new topics over the next year.
- **National Conference Attendance:**
 - Multiple staff members attended summer campus safety conferences to update their knowledge and find worthwhile experts to invite to Colorado to enhance school safety information here.
 - Margaret attended the Charlotte, North Carolina Campus Safety Conference and stated that the greatest takeaway she had was the pride in what we are all doing here in Colorado. During the conference she heard references to subject matter experts that we have brought to Colorado to address our school personnel. Staff also identified speakers that the Center is interested in bringing to Colorado.
 - Dustin Hunter was able to attend the summer Campus Safety Conference in Las Vegas. He stated that he had the same feeling as Margaret regarding pride in the work we are all doing in Colorado. He also was able to attend a cannabis conference where he heard new research related to marijuana, sleep and anxiety.
 - Ms. Harms shared that she was pleased to have been invited to speak on suicide prevention at all three of the summer Campus Safety Conferences this year as there were few speakers focused on psychological safety. Most were related to physical safety.

- She was also invited to the United States Department of Homeland Security's school safety roundtable in July. Her concern with this is if Homeland Security takes the lead, their main focus is physical safety, but we cannot let psychological safety go by the wayside. Others had the same concern.

Other CSSRC Projects:

- Ms. Harms thanked the Colorado School District's Self Insurance Pool (CSDSIP) for their generous donation as a platinum sponsor for the annual Colorado Safe Schools Summit which is being held in October.
- Christine Harms directed the Board's attention to the Summit At-a-Glance schedule they were given. During 2010 - 2012, the Center utilized the Gill Grant to host multiple trainings across the state and Dr. Dorothy Espelage provided the plenary at each of these events. Dr. Espelage is a researcher and international expert on bullying. She has been asked to open the October Summit and she has agreed.
- We have also requested Howie Shapiro, a special agent with the FBI and Jenny Preswalla from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to present a case scenario on countering violence extremism. Day two of the Summit will have Finessa Ferrell opening the morning with a presentation on school climate and Lynne Reimer ending the day with a presentation on drugs.
- CSDSIP is also collaborating on the upcoming Digital Threat Assessment Training which will be held over the course of three days in September to include Basic, Advanced, and Train the Trainer. At this point in time, registration is already more than half full.
- Mr. Hunter and Ms. Harms also presented the topic of Stress Debriefing to a group over the summer which focuses on helping professionals go back to school after an incident and resolve trauma with their staff. This was a pilot for the Stress Debriefing training to be held on August 20, 2019, and they received some helpful feedback.
- Dustin Hunter provided an update on the Youth Engaged in School Safety (YES2) program, the Center's youth council. With fewer applicants received than in previous years, the students will form a planning committee for the three Student/Staff Symposia which will be similar to last year's events. Plans are being made for these symposia in Lamar, the Steamboat area and Montrose.
- Over the past year, the Center has completed many projects including Mr. Stiles' work with the PTA on emergency management; Isaac Baah has and will continue to revamp the Center's website; and Center staff will continue to facilitate the working groups related to Threat Assessment and Suicide Prevention.

Advisory Board Member Updates

- **Carolena Steen, Cheyenne Mountain School District**, informed the Board that recently with the increase in the number of suicides in the Colorado Springs region, a local paper has taken this topic on and done multiple stories. The community has also come together to assist with a town hall meeting to address this topic as a community. Their schools appreciate the support.
- **Jamie Haukeness, Montezuma-Cortez School District**, informed the Board that he has invited Brad Stiles and Dustin Hunter to come to Cortez on October 2, 2019, to provide threat assessment training with new staff. Mr. Haukeness underscored the importance of this training.
- **Lorrie Odom, Colorado PTA**, informed the Board that she will be sending multiple upcoming events from CSSRC to post on their training calendar for public access. In addition, the calendar lists the JeffCo Communities that Care training on a Trustable Adult. Everyone is invited to attend.
- **Melanie Voegeli-Morris, Poudre School District**, shared that currently her district is using the QPR training district wide so everyone involved can utilize the same language. She likes this training because it has a practical curriculum and her team can add in additional information on how to create connections with the students.

- **Essi Ellis, Safe2Tell**, shared that Safe2Tell is looking to hire another trainer that is focused on law enforcement as identified in feedback received. They are also working with local partners to sponsor a teen-to-teen public service announcement campaign. S2T is looking at state statute language around false tips, but reminded the Board that false tips are very low at about 2.4%. Recently the new Watch Center within the Colorado Informational Analysis Center (CIAC) has taken over fielding and disseminating the tips from the CSP dispatch with positive feedback from the field.
- **George Welsh, Cañon City**, shared lessons learned from two screenings of high school students using the BIMAS-2. This is a screen to help identify students with mental health concerns so that they can receive the support that they need. If any districts are considering screening, Cañon City staff would be happy to share their lessons learned.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Next Scheduled Meetings:

October 1, 2019

February 4, 2020