

NOTES

October 1, 2019
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
690 Kipling Street – 1st Floor
Conference Room
Lakewood, CO 80215



COLORADO
School Safety Resource Center
Department of Public Safety

Meeting Attendees:

Advisory Board Members:

In Person:

Sarah Brummett	Kathy Plomer	Chris Wilderman
Lynne DeSousa	Mark Pokorny	
Essi Ellis	Jenny Schoen	
Steve Fast	Meghan Shelton	
Kelly Jacobsen	Carolena Steen	
Matt Lewis	Melanie Voegeli-Morris	
Lorrie Odom	George Welsh	

On Phone:

Greg Busch
Jamie Haukeness

Absent:

Dave Young

Staff Present:

Christine Harms, Director
Dustin Hunter, School Outreach Consultant
Brad Stiles, Emergency Response Outreach Consultant
Margaret Ochoa, CSA Prevention Specialist
Jamie Soucie, Regional Training Consultant
Vickie Cooper, Regional Training Consultant
Isaac Baah, Resource Specialist
Melissa Rubeo, Program Assistant

Welcome and Advisory Board Business – *Chris Wilderman, Chair*

- The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm by Chris Wilderman who introduced himself and had each of the members introduce themselves.
- Chris Harms introduced the newest members of our team, Jamie Soucie and Vickie Cooper, and had them provide information on their backgrounds
- Chris informed the Board that a third individual has been selected and offered a regional training position but we are still in the process of finalizing paperwork and cannot share their name until all is in place.
- Meeting Notes were reviewed and accepted from the August 13, 2019, meeting.

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CSSRC Activities- - Staff

- Christine Harms provided an update to the board regarding the School Safety Interim Committee. So far three meetings have been conducted, and there will be another one on the 31st of October. At the last meeting, eleven different topics were suggested for bills. Since Ms. Harms testified in one of the earlier meetings, no further assistance has been requested.
- Ms. Harms shared brief information on some of the bills that are currently being discussed:
 - The first is the potential to create a CCJJ-like commission to study school safety and to further coordinate services among state agencies. This bill is written so that CDE would run the commission.
 - A second bill being discussed would require the CSSRC to review juvenile residential facilities and make recommendations as to future needs.
 - A third bill would have calls be directed to Mental Health Crisis Services before the calls can go through Safe2Tell. Essi Ellis stated that this would be similar to the Utah tip line which incorporates mental health specialists and analysts in one. At this point in time, calls that are mental health related are routed to crisis counseling when needed.
 - Also being considered is allowing students to use a sick day for a mental health break and finally,
 - Providing more mental health training to educators
- Essi Ellis discussed that while there is a potential punishment for misuse of Safe2Tell, due to the success of Safe2Tell, they are currently looking at a productive solution for situations with chronic misuse without serious changes to the system.
- There is currently discussion about a bill that will increase the amount appropriated to the interoperability program through the SAFER Grant and a resurrection of the school security disbursement grant program.
- Essi Ellis informed the Board that Safe2Tell is working on youth PSAs for Teen to Teen Suicide Prevention. There are approximately 40 - 50 students involved in the project who told their stories on video as to why they are standing up to breaking the code of silence around mental health concerns. There will be two PSAs released in October.
- Director Harms informed the board that the Center was awarded a grant in collaboration with DHSEM and the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at CU, Boulder for just under a million dollars to refine the threat assessment protocol and training. This grant will run for three years and we will be using 35 different schools as pilot sites to evaluate the materials and training process. At this point, it has not yet been decided how schools will be selected.
- Ms. Harms shared information on the Stress Debriefing training that Dustin Hunter and she have been providing to school staff in different districts. The goal of this training is to help staff process after tragedies and reduce trauma.
- Christine Harms also provided an update on the Digital Threat Assessment that the Center provided in collaboration with CSDSIP to bring this training from Safer Schools Together to Colorado. This was a three day training for Basic, Advanced and Train the Trainer. The CSSRC staff that attended the training felt the time was useful especially for the Basic and Advanced but that the Train the Trainer was not adequate to feel prepared to go out and train on digital threat assessment.
- Ms. Harms informed the board about the upcoming annual Colorado Safe Schools Summit later in the month. Dorothy Espelage, Ph.D. will be presenting new research related to bullying and the importance of school climate along with target hardening. On day two, Finessa Ferrell will present on social emotional learning. Rounding out day one are presenters from the FBI and Homeland Security discussing violent extremism. Day

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two will be closed by Lynn Riemer presenting on Drugs in Our Communities. All board members are welcome to attend at no cost. Please contact the Center's office staff so that the lunch count is accurate.

- Margaret Ochoa shared information on the upcoming Student Staff trainings scheduled for December and April. To identify topics the Youth Engaged in School Safety (YES2) council met to determine issues they felt were pressing to students. Workshop topics will cover trauma informed drills, healthy relationships, digital citizenship, and alcohol and suicide prevention. On December 4th, and December 11th respectively, the Summits will be held in Yampa Valley and Lamar. Once again the staff of the Center will partner with Montrose Valley School District on a Western Slope Summit for adults on April 16th preceded by a Student/Staff Summit on April 15th, 2020.
- The Center is also working on a one-day regional training on suicide intervention that will feature Dr. Terri Erbacher. This will be a collaboration with CDPHE's Office of Suicide Prevention, CDE and Safe2Tell.
- Dustin Hunter has been working on a Suicide Assessment Toolkit for schools modeled after the Center's Threat Assessment protocol. A variety of information related to the assessments will be reviewed from across the state and nation with input from other mental health professionals. The final toolkit will include a screen, assessment tool, monitoring documents and resources.
- Isaac Baah is currently in the process of updating and revamping the CSSRC's website. The department recently left Drupal 6 and is now using Drupal 8 to manage websites so he is utilizing this new, improved system to make the website easier to navigate.
- Brad Stiles shared that there is an Institutions of Higher Education group working on Concurrently Enrolled Students and safety measures necessary when they are attending classes on college campuses. The working group will first tackle reunification best practices and then move on to other safety issues. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2019.

Advisory Board Member Updates

- Melanie Voegeli-Morris, Poudre School District, shared that the school board and the superintendent in her district are working on addressing drills and trainings in ways that reduce the trauma for students. She requested that if anyone has resources on this to please share them with her.
- Kathy Plomer, CASB representative, stated that there is an upcoming CASB regional meeting on October 18, 2019, and they have a number of Colorado speakers including staff from Safe2Tell and CSSRC. There will be a school safety community meeting at the Adams 12 Conference Center this week. Part one will cover building security and part two (on 11/6/19) will focus on social emotional support. All are welcome to attend.
- Essi Ellis, Safe2Tell, shared that there were approximately 2600 tips in the month of September which is the third highest month of tips in Safe2Tell's history. April and May of this year also triggered higher numbers. Suicide threats were the top tip for the last three years at approximately 69,000 tips so Safe2Tell launched a suicide campaign with community partners to address this issue. Safe2Tell is also working with law enforcement to support officers without compromising the anonymity of the reporters.
- The Center is working with the Watch Center of the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) to upgrade the communications to schools when incidents like the one last April may occur.
- Kelly Jacobsen, Westminster Police Department and SRO, shared an update on the vaping situation from her perspective. The schools have started putting vape sensors in the bathrooms so that they are notified when students are vaping. Schools have also purchased magnetometers yet students continue to vape. Unfortunately, these items do not address the addiction that comes with vaping. The group was reminded again of the free vaping cessation program for teens offered by National Jewish Health at mylifemyquit.com. Office Jacobsen also shared that the annual Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO) conference will be held in Grand Junction. CASRO has partnered with the Frank DeAngelis Foundation to host

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Bernie James, Esq. as one of the keynote presenters in July. Mr. James will also be featured at a presentation supported by the DeAngelis Center and the CSSRC in January.

- Dr. Carolena Steen, Assistant Superintendent at Cheyenne Mountain School District, shared that with the high rates of suicide in El Paso County, the local paper has been doing weekly reporting on the suicide issue. The community is working hard to combat this concern with one tactic being a wellness committee that has grown enormously with parental support.
- Dr. Lorrie Odom, Colorado PTA, shared that Question Persuade Refer (QPR) has been made available for all staff in Jefferson County schools as a means to combat the suicide issue. There will be a suicide prevention summit in Jefferson County in early October and she will share this information with the Center so we can distribute it to school personnel.
- Meghan Shelton, of the Colorado Department of Human Services, shared that the Mental Health Colorado toolkit will be distributed at an upcoming training in Grand Junction. Ms. Shelton also explained that each of the 17 community mental health centers in the state house a school mental health liaison. Each liaison functions slightly differently depending upon their community health center and school districts served. This is a fairly new addition to Colorado's mental health efforts but has been well received.

The meeting closed at 3:02 pm.

**Next Scheduled
Meetings:**

February 4, 2020
April 7, 2020
August 4, 2020