

NOTES

August 4, 2020

1:30 – 3:30 PM

Virtual meeting due to COVID-19



COLORADO

School Safety Resource Center

Department of Public Safety

Meeting Attendees:

Advisory Board Members:

On Google Meets Hangout:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Kelly Abbott | Kathy Plomer |
| Sarah Brummett | Mark Pokorny |
| Essi Ellis | Sheldon Rosenkrance |
| Steve Fast | Jenny Schoen |
| Jamie Haukeness | Meghan Shelton |
| Christina Larson | Melanie Voegeli-Morris |
| Matt Lewis | Chris Wilderman |
| Lorrie Odom | |

Absent:

Greg Busch
Kelly Jacobsen
Carolena Steen
Dave Young

Staff Present:

Christine Harms, Director
Brad Stiles, Emergency Response Outreach Consultant
Margaret Ochoa, CSA Prevention Specialist
Dustin Hunter, School Outreach Consultant
Isaac Baah, Resource Specialist
Melissa Rubeo, Program Assistant
Kati Garner, NW Regional Training Consultant

Guests:

Jana Locke, Deputy Executive Director

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

- The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by the Chairperson, Chris Wilderman, who introduced himself and then had each of the members introduce themselves.
- Isaac Baah shared a short video related to the postponement of this year's Special Olympics on the Western slope. The clip featured board member Sheriff Matt Lewis.
- Christina Larson, one of the newest members of the Board, introduced herself and shared her history working with the Colorado Department of Education and as a Superintendent in the Moffat County Schools.
- Sheldon Rosenkrance, the other newest member of the Board, introduced himself and shared his background as Superintendent in the Estes Park School District and working with other superintendents as the chair person for the Northeast Regional Superintendents' Group.
- A motion was made by Steve Fast and seconded by Sheriff Matt Lewis and carried to approve the notes from the April 7, 2020 meeting as written.

CSSRC Activities- - *Staff*

- Director Harms informed the Board that the Southeast Regional Training Consultant, Vickie Cooper, resigned in April since moving out of the region, a requirement of the position. Ms. Harms shared that the office is not hiring a replacement due to the state's current hiring freeze and the main office staff will be working closely with the NE Regional Training Consultant to cover that portion of the state. She also mentioned that Jamie Soucie, NE Regional Training Consultant has been on medical leave and is

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expected to return later in August. Kati Garner, NW Regional Training Consultant, has agreed to cover as much of the Western slope as possible.

- Dustin Hunter, School Outreach Consultant, provided an update on the Youth Engaged in School Safety (YES2) team for the 2020-2021 school year. This is the Center's youth council. The Center received more applications to participate in the council this year than in the past two years combined and feel this group is a good representation of youth around the state. Approximately two weeks ago an orientation meeting was held and a good portion of the meeting was spent discussing current safety topics and ideas for a project for the team this year. A common topic was related to mental health and access to mental health services. There were also quite a few conversations on the topic of equity and diversity. Center staff decided to hold the Student and Staff Summit as a virtual event this year due to the current health situation in the state. This will be open to all middle and high school students and is tentatively scheduled for December 10, 2020.
- Margaret Ochoa, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist, provided an update on the virtual trainings the Center has been holding since April 2020. Staff provided 66 trainings covering 16 different topics and have trained over 1400 people. Dustin Hunter has created short 30-minute trainings for parents. Mr. Hunter and Kati Garner have been responsible for providing these.
- Isaac Baah, Resource Specialist, shared that he has been working on updating the 17 different online courses the Center Staff has created over the years with updated statistics and information. These trainings can be taken at any pace, have no cost, and the attendee receives a certificate of completion at the end. Director Harms explained how helpful this will be as Mr. Baah is learning the development aspect of the trainings so that in the future, he will be able to work with staff on creating new trainings without having to contract with outside vendors.
- Brad Stiles, Emergency Response Outreach Consultant, provided an update on the STOP grant that the Center received. This federal grant is being used to refine the threat assessment documents and training. The process started almost a year ago and the first nine months were used to refine the materials and make the presentations as clear as possible. In June 2020, training for the five pilot sites began and the training was broken into three days with three hours of training virtually. At this point in time, recruitment for the next 30 schools is underway.
- Kati Garner, North West Regional Training Consultant, provided an update on the grant project working with the Governor's Office of Informational Technology (OIT). The Office of Information Technology is creating a database that will allow schools to store their threat assessment data securely and at no cost. The goal of this tool is to help streamline the process of threat assessments across the state and make it easier for districts to share threat documents when students transfer.
- Christine Harms, Director, thanked Adams 12 School District for allowing Heilit Biehl to work with the CSSRC team reviewing the materials of the STOP grant and providing useful feedback. Ms. Harms also invited the Board members to share the pilot site information with any schools they believe may be interested.
- Director Harms shared that the legislative session was interrupted by COVID-19. However, when the legislature did resume, they passed multiple bills including SB20-023 to form a working group to look at school safety. This bill originally had a fiscal note attached but due to the decrease in state revenue, the fiscal note was not passed with the bill. The legislature gave the Colorado Department of Public Safety the option to either pursue the working group without funding or table it until further funding is available. . Since the Center's Advisory Board assists state agencies to collaborate regarding school safety, the CDPS decided to forgo the working group at this time. Center staff will track collaborations with other state colleagues and report that in the annual Legislative Report.

- Kati Garner provided an update on the Speaker Series that will be replacing the Colorado Safe Schools Summit this year. Due to COVID-19, the Center decided to create a speaker series that will host a plenary speaker each of the first four Fridays in October starting at 2:00 pm. Speakers will include Marc Shoen, M.D. with UCLA, Jason Kilmer, Ph.D. from the University of Washington, Nick Thompson, M.S.W., a Colorado professional, and Madelyn Gould, Ph.D. from Columbia University. Since this speaker series is being held virtually, there is no cost to attend, but individuals are required to register to ensure they receive the appropriate links for the series. All Advisory Board members are invited to attend. Melissa Rubeo can assist with registration, if necessary. Melissa.rubeo@state.co.us
- Dustin Hunter shared that the Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention Symposium that was previously scheduled for May 2020 and cancelled, has been rescheduled. On November 19th, Terri Erbacher, Ph.D. will be training on the CSSRC Suicide Assessment & Intervention Toolkit. This toolkit was created with permission based on the work of Drs. Erbacher, Scott Poland and Jonathan Singer, *Suicide in Schools*. While this virtual training is free to attend, individuals must register to receive the appropriate links for the event.
- Brad Stiles elaborated on the Student and Staff Summit that will be hosted this year. This is an opportunity for middle and high school students to hear a national speaker and participate in working groups on school safety topics. The youth council students will be assisting. The Center is still in the process of selecting a speaker for the virtual event this year but information will be shared as it becomes available.
- Margaret Ochoa provided an update on the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention Symposium. In the past, the Center has held this event annually, but due to attendance issues, this has been moved to every other year. Therefore, the Center will host it in February 2021. At this point the Center has reserved the Lowry Conference Center but staff will be ready to provide it virtually, if necessary. More information will be available soon.
- Chris Wilderman reminded the Board members that in the top right corner of their screen, there is a chat bubble they can click on to ask questions or make comments without unmuting or interrupting the current speaker.

Advisory Board Member Updates

- **Essi Ellis**, Colorado Attorney General's Office and Supervisor of the Safe2Tell program, shared that due to budget cuts throughout the state, full time staff in her office were reduced from seven to four. This has created new challenges. Ms. Ellis also shared how grateful she is for the team within the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) that has been handling the incoming phone calls and reports for Safe2Tell. Normally when students are out of school there is a drop in reporting and that has been the case during this time of COVID. Safe2Tell has been using the CARES Act funding for marketing and creating new public service announcements. Another big project is the follow through on HB1113 mental health and education resources. Safe2Tell is conducting a series of stakeholder meetings to talk about tips that are related to mental health or substance abuse to streamline the transfer to the appropriate Colorado Crisis Services team. Safe2Tell staff also applied for a STOP Grant to improve their technology capabilities.
- **Christina Larson**, Colorado Department of Education, stated that her team is currently working closely with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and other groups to ensure schools have the necessary resources to open or provide online learning opportunities that also support equity. There are currently a host of questions surrounding opening the schools, but she and her colleagues at CDE ask that everyone have grace, share information and help the school districts make good decisions for their teams.

- **Jamie Haukeness**, Principal of Cortez Middle School and District Safety Director, stated that MCSD will be installing new HVAC systems and are working with their district safety team on the return to school plans. The district is collaborating closely with their local health department along with utilizing information from CDE and CDPHE. They are also considering holding classes outdoors when able.
- **Chris Wilderman**, Adams 12 School District, shared that his district is working on increasing the air exchange in all buildings. However, this will result in an increase in utility costs. Mr. Wilderman also talked about replacing air filters with those that will collect more particles, however, this will cause an increase in cost as well.
- **Kathy Plomer**, CASB Board of Education and Adams 12 School Board, reported that CASB is working hard to provide support to their members. At this point there are approximately 180 plans for reopening and each district is trying to do their best to meet community needs. Unfortunately, a lot of school boards are feeling pressure due to politicized situations. The real challenge is keeping focus on the data. This is one of the most challenging times to be in service therefore, CASB is providing a webinar this week on “Your Social Emotional Health.” School boards are trying to help work with COVID vs other priorities and making sure schools are able to meet the students’ needs.
- **Mark Pokorny**, Metro State University of Denver, stated that institutions of higher education are having the same issues as the K-12 schools, and have developed a tiered approach. Metro State University is starting with classes that have to be in person such as labs, but they also have to be flexible with the constant changes that will be happening. The school is actually utilizing their chemistry team to create hand sanitizer for the school as well. Mr. Pokorny repeated his generous offer to assist any schools with plans to review and discard chemicals in their buildings.
- **Sheriff Matt Lewis**, Mesa County, said the Mesa 51 School District in his region has made the decision to go back to school in person. He also mentioned the recent legislative changes to law enforcement across the state and the challenges these create for law enforcement agencies. Mesa 51 will have no reduction in the number of SROs in the schools this year.
- **Meghan Shelton**, Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health, stated that since mid-March her team has been meeting weekly and working closely with Mental Health Colorado and holding weekly town hall meetings. She and her staff are quickly figuring out new ways to reach students and teachers while focusing on the topic of teacher wellness during COVID.
- **Melanie Voegeli-Morris**, Poudre School District, said that staff are currently focusing on the pragmatics of getting schools ready for opening such as how to get personal protective equipment, how to distribute that equipment, etc. Poudre will also focus on the mental health of students and staff, including initially postponing academics to focus on experience during the quarantine, safety and engagement.
- **Sarah Brummett**, Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP) within CDPHE, shared that her office’s main focus recently has been their Wildly Important Goal (WIG) for the Governor’s Office. The 2021 fiscal year plan was approved and OSP will be prioritizing collaboration across state agencies, improving data collection and sharing and focusing on health system readiness and response. The Healthy Kids Colorado Survey results were recently released. Ms. Brummett was happy to report that 2019 was the highest participation year the survey has experienced. There was an increase in self reports of depression and they did ask new questions this year including students’ access to firearms. The results are available to everyone. (Ms. Harms will send a link tomorrow to Advisory Board Members.)
- **Sheldon Rosenkrance**, Superintendent of Estes Park School District (EPSD), shared that tomorrow the EPSD board will be finalizing their school schedule. One of the biggest challenges for reopening is the timeliness of COVID test results. Mr. Rosenkrance has also had to replace most of his counseling staff due to resignations.

- **Steve Fast**, Executive Director of Colorado School District Self Insurance Pool (CSDSIP), stated CSDSIP is currently focusing on assisting districts with how to safely reopen schools. His team is also in the process of changing in-person trainings to virtual trainings.
- **Jenny Schoen**, Littleton Public Schools, said that Littleton schools reported back to school as of Friday and the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) just announced that fall sports will all be moved to the spring.
- **Kelly Abbott**, Office of Adult & Juvenile Justice Assistance within the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ), told the board that her office is working on mapping out a new three year plan. In the past they have focused on truancy, but they have also set aside the early prevention committee and will take another look at this during their meeting in September. They are working on trying to figure out the DCJ piece in the law enforcement integrity bill mentioned by Sheriff Lewis and are investing funding sources.

The next meeting on October 6th will also be virtual. The meeting ended at 3:02 pm.

**Next Scheduled
Meetings:**

October 6, 2020

February 2, 2021

April 6, 2021