

NOTES

August 3, 2021

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:

Present:

Kelly Abbott
Kevin Armstrong
Stacey Jenkins
Carolena Guiral Steen
Lena Heilmann
Craig Hein
Kelly Jacobsen
Jane Lineman
Lorrie Odom
Mark Pokorny
Sheldon Rosenkrance
Jenny Schoen
Meghan Shelton
Chris Wilderman

On Phone:

Greg Busch

Absent:

Michael Dougherty
Christina Monaco Larson
Kathy Plomer

Staff Present:

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

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

- The meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm by the Chairperson, Chris Wilderman.
- Director Harms thanked the recently reappointed members for agreeing to serve on the Board for another two years. She informed the Board that we were still seeking a rural principal to fill the final vacancy.
- The Board members then provided brief introductions. The new Board Members were welcomed to the meeting: Lena Heilmann, Jane Lineman and Sheriff Kevin Armstrong.
- The Board reviewed meeting notes from the February 2, 2021, meeting. A motion was made by Meghan Shelton to approve the notes as written and was seconded by Mark Pokorny.
- The Board reviewed meeting notes from the April 6, 2021, meeting. A motion was made by Mark Pokorny to approve the notes as written and was seconded by Kelly Abbott.

Updates on the CSSRC - CSSRC Staff

- **Chris Harms** shared the current status on the Center budget. In 2018, there were grant funds allocated through the Center's cash fund. At the end of the grants, a considerable amount of money remained. During COVID, the legislature chose to remove the Center as a line item in the state's general fund budget and sustain operations on funds remaining in the cash fund. The funds were estimated to last through most of FY23. Ms. Harms shared that she and CDPS are working to have the Center's budget reinstated either from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund or the General Fund by FY2023. The Colorado Department of Public Safety's budget team believes that the best option for the Center's budget is from the Marijuana Cash Tax Fund. A decision will be made in November 2021 and the Board will be notified when an update is available.
- Board members volunteered to advocate for the Center's budget, if necessary. Ms. Harms reported that testimonials of the Center's services have already been received from a number of schools. However, she will let the Advisory Board know if further support is needed.
- Director Harms also informed the Board that the School Outreach Consultant, Dustin Hunter, departed the Center at the end of June 2021. The Center is in the final phase of hiring for this position. She also shared that the North East Regional Training Consultant, Jamie Soucie, will be leaving the Center at the end of the month. While it has been difficult to fill the regional training positions, the Center will continue to seek qualified individuals to step into the positions.
- **Margaret Ochoa** provided an update on the first Safe Schools Academy the Center held in June 2021. The academy was five half days of training with approximately 22 registrants with 18 completing the Academy from across the state. The academy included an overview of laws and best practices, foundational mental health issues, restorative practices, sexual misconduct, mandated reporting, emergency operating procedures, table top exercises, threat assessment, suicide assessments, and more. External school safety stakeholders presented on disproportionality in discipline, response and recovery. Follow up with attendees showed satisfaction with the topics and information learned. There are hopes to hold future academies and information will be shared as plans progress.
- **Brad Stiles** shared follow up information on the Institutions of Higher Education Symposium that was held in June 2021. The day had four plenary sessions, the first presenter spoke on the neuroscience of stress on responders especially during the COVID-19 epidemic. There was a representative from a national stalking prevention agency that spoke on stalking and how it looks now related to Title IX. Dr. Jason Kilmer from the University of Washington returned and covered cannabis on campus, while Margaret Ochoa and Brad Stiles of the Center spoke on concurrent enrollment, specifically emergency operation procedures and mandatory reporting on campus.
- **Margaret Ochoa** provided an update on the Youth Engaged in School Safety (YES2) team for the 2021 - 2022 school year. The orientation meeting was held on July 30, 2021, at the Denver Aquarium and then moved to the Colorado Children's Museum. A majority of the team for this school year are from the metro area, two from the North East quadrant, and a few other outlying areas. This meeting was the first in-person for the Center in over a year due to COVID-19. There were representatives from the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS), including the Board's Kelly Abbott, to share with the students information about specific agencies within the Department and how they work around the state. This was a great opportunity for the Center's team to remember their mission and hopefully instill a love of public service in the students. Part of the meeting was dedicated to discussing the potential projects for the students to complete over the year as well as the topics that could be presented during the December 7, 2021, Virtual Student Staff Safety Symposium.
- The Center staff was able to attend a variety of virtual training and conferences over the summer and wanted to share what they found interesting and valuable.
 - **Jamie Soucie** shared that she was able to attend the Maryland School Safety Conference. One speaker that caught her attention was Katie Greer who spoke about hot topics such as cyberbullying and sexting. The Center is considering tapping into her expertise and having her as an event speaker in the future.

- **Kati Garner** also attended the Maryland School Safety Conference and enjoyed listening to Judge Robert Lung from the 18th Judicial District in Colorado. He spoke on the topic of human trafficking and brought a new perspective to the conversation - that of a judge and survivor. It was also appreciated how he incorporated mindfulness activities into the presentation to assist participants.
- **Brad Stiles** assisted with the Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO) Conference.
- **Kati Garner** attended CASRO as a presenter and participant. She shared that she enjoyed the conference very much, especially Peter Langman's presentation and the information he shared on his new book.
- **Margaret Ochoa** attended the Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management Board (DVSOMB) joint conference in July. An important topic that is being addressed is the gap in services for youth and those involved in relationship violence as most of the juvenile treatment providers have experience in youth brain development but not domestic violence training. This topic will be presented again in October at the Center's Safe School Summit and in November at the Colorado Society of School Psychologists (CSSP) conference.
- **Chris Harms** attended the Maryland School Safety Conference and noticed that the expensive platform was not necessarily a benefit and the Center will be utilizing the vast technical skills of Isaac Baah, the Center's Resource Specialist, to ensure the Center's training runs smoothly for presenters and attendees alike. While the platform was not impressive, the presentations on Title IX and a ransomware attack that occurred in Maryland earlier in the year were extremely interesting. During the conference, a book titled The Talent Code by Daniel Coyle was mentioned highlighting neurological findings to explain why talent can be trained through deep practice.
- **Ms. Harms** shared with the board some of the common questions the Center receives regarding work during the summer. A common misconception is that the Center has no work to complete during the summer as the schools are on summer break. While the Center may not be hosting events or training during the summer, the staff is working diligently to prepare for the upcoming school year, update the large number of resource guides they share, and update online training. Over the past year, the Resource Specialist, Isaac Baah, has been teaching himself how to program so he can update and eventually create the online courses the Center offers to the public. Previously, the Center has had to contract for those services.
- **Director Harms** reminded the Board that the Center will be holding the following upcoming trainings:
 - Their annual [School Safety Summit on October 21 & 22, 2021](#),
 - There will be the [Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention Symposium on November 4, 2021](#),
 - The Student and Staff Safety Symposium on December, 7, 2021; and
 - The staff is working on a Speaker Series that will be held on January 11, 19 and 26, 2021, and will hopefully include Sameer Hinduja, Lynn Reimer, and Dr. Alex Rodriguez.
- More information on the events will be shared as they become available through the [CSSRC monthly newsletter, the E-Update](#). Board members are encouraged to participate in ANY of the Center's activities. Please feel free to register and come for as much or as little of the presentations as you are able.

Advisory Board Members' Updates

Colorado PTA

- **Lorrie Odom**, Co-Chair, Health, Wellness, & Safety, Colorado PTA, shared that her office is collaborating with Rise Against Colorado, a non-profit organization that provides free mental health therapy for uninsured or underinsured youth with suicidal ideation in the Boulder Valley and Saint Vrain Valley School Districts. Students can be connected with a licensed and insured therapist within 24 - 48 hours and it does not require the families to complete a great deal of paperwork to receive the help.
- Dr. Odom also shared that her office recently had a retreat that focused on back to school and mental health resources. She will share links to these as well as resources regarding COVID vaccinations and how to engage those hesitant to receive the vaccine..

Safe2Tell

- **Stacey Jenkins**, Safe2Tell (S2T) Director, shared that their office is also in the process of hiring and therefore actively recruiting quality candidates for multiple positions. Their new website is currently in the developer's hands and they are hoping to launch in November 2021. The goals for the new website are to make it easier to process, access information and view information.
- Safe2Tell is looking to launch a student ambassador program and they are currently recruiting students to participate and hopefully launch in mid October 2021. At this point, the program may meet approximately six times per year and they will be asking the students to come up with a project they are passionate about. Over the last year, Safe2Tell received less than half of the number of reports compared to past years and they want to utilize the student ambassadors to bring back the momentum on reporting. Safe2Tell is also looking at sharing their message through social media programs like Tik Tok and others.

Colorado Community College System

- **Greg Busch**, Emergency Management Director for the Colorado Community College System, shared that he believes the community college system is heading in the right direction in regards to COVID-19 and how best to bring students and staff back safely. However, the new Delta variant is causing concerns. At this point it's a heavy lift trying to balance keeping students enrolled, following mask guidance and all the other health and safety requirements.
- Mr. Busch then thanked the Center for all of their work on the IHE event over the summer.

Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice, CDPS

- **Kelly Abbott**, Representative of CDPS from the Division of Criminal Justice, shared that the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Council submitted a three year plan with three priorities including looking at suspension and expulsions, the school to prison pipeline, and crimes of violence. They are currently forming subcommittees to join the conversation, look at policies, and legislation.

Westminster Police Department

- **Kelly Jacobsen**, School Resource Officer, shared that the School Resource Officers (SRO) are working on getting back into school and redefining their jobs. SROs want to be sure school administrators are handling discipline and relying on the SROs to only issue tickets for appropriate offenses. Officer Jacobsen and her Commander have been instrumental in assisting SROs across the state with gathering accurate data on all the roles that SROs play in a school.
- Brad Stiles also commented on the excellent work Office Jacobsen did in leading the organization of the Colorado Association of School Resource Officers' summer conference.

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

- **Lena Heilmann**, Suicide Prevention Strategies Manager from the Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP), stated that the 2020 suicide fatality data has been finalized. A big take away of the data is that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, there was not a statistically significant increase in rates of suicide fatalities in Colorado among any age category (youth; young adults; adults; older adults).
- The Office of Suicide Prevention is working to facilitate more discussions pertaining to suicide prevention, intervention, and equity. OSP compiled a document to start conversations on why equity is important and how to share the information.
- The Statewide Suicide Commission approved two sets of recommendations including supporting LGBTQ+ youth and adults as they have higher rates of despair and suicide fatalities; and how to address forms of discrimination in order to support Black, ndigenous, and outh of Color.

Estes Park Schools

- **Sheldon Rosenkrance**, Superintendent of Estes Park Schools, stated that their school district is also working on how to bring students and staff back into the schools safely over the next year.

Having no further updates, Mr. Wilderman asked for any final thoughts from the CSSRC staff. Director Harms did have one more update for the Board. After discussions with John McDonald, Security Director for JeffCo Public Schools and members of the board for the DeAngelis Foundation, it was decided that a working group would be formed to address crisis response for schools in the state. Two meetings were held and two committees have now been formed:

1. The first committee will review the three most utilized crisis response models in the state: NOVA, Psychological First Aid and PREPaRE. The three models will be compared and contrasted to determine if there is enough commonality between them to be confident that anyone volunteering to help at a school crisis, trained in any one of these models, can be relied upon to provide similar support.
2. The second committee will review lessons learned from school crisis events in Colorado and across the country to create a guide for schools on what to do before, during and after a school critical incident.

The Center will facilitate these two committees and attempt to work as quickly as possible in case of any events this school year.

The meeting was then adjourned with thanks to everyone in attendance.

The next meeting on October 5th at 1:30 will be virtual.

Next Scheduled Meetings:
October 5, 2021
February 1, 2022
April 5, 2022
August 2, 2022