

NOTES

February 2, 2022
1:30 – 3:30 PM
Virtual meeting



COLORADO
School Safety Resource Center
Department of Public Safety

Meeting Attendees:

Advisory Board Members:

Present on Google Meets:

Kelly Abbott
Kevin Armstrong
Michael Dougherty
Carolena Guiral Steen
Rebecca Hall
Lena Heilmann
Craig Hein
Kelly Jacobsen
Stacey Jenkins
Jane Lineman
Christina Monaco Larson
Lorrie Odom
Mark Pokorny
Sheldon Rosenkrance
Meghan Shelton
Chris Wilderman

Present on Phone:

Greg Busch

Absent:

Jenny Schoen

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
Ron Lee, School Outreach Consultant

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

- The meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm by the Chairman, Chris Wilderman.
- Mr. Wilderman requested that all members provide a brief introduction.
- The Board reviewed meeting notes from the October 5, 2021, meeting. A motion was made by Jane Lineman to approve the notes as written and was seconded by Meghan Shelton. The motion was carried by a majority.
- Chairman Wilderman asked about the status of the Center's funding. Director Harms shared that funding through this year is secure and the Department of Public Safety has made funding the Center a Decision Item for the 2023 Funding Year but this has not yet been discussed at the legislature. The Center would be funded from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund. When financing is secure, filling the other Regional Training Consultant positions will be a priority.
- There was a request from the Governor's office that the budget for the Center be increased to allow more statewide events at no cost to the schools. If the submitted budget request is approved, it will allow the Center to host an in-person summit on the Western Slope and other additional workshops around the state.
- Ms. Harms reported that the CSSRC Board sunseting has not yet come up at the legislature. However, the Department of Regulatory Affairs (DORA) has recommended the Advisory Board continue.

- Director Harms shared that the Center has completed the [2021 Legislative Report](#) that had been sent to the Governor's Office for review and today to the Judiciary and Education Committees of the Colorado Legislature. She then provided an overview of some highlights from the report:
 - In 2021, the Center trained almost 6,000 individuals in 207 presentations which brought the Center's total individuals trained since December 2008 to 64,297;
 - There were six statewide trainings which is less than the Center normally provides but the lower number is to be expected due to COVID-19;
 - 2021 was the first year the Center held the week-long School Safety Academy which will be repeated in June 2022;
 - The Center Staff were invited to present at a total of 21 statewide conferences or regional meetings over the course of 2021;
 - Direct services were provided to 101 different schools and agencies throughout the state.
 - Ms. Harms shared that the Center has completed their first draft of the Crisis Response Guidelines for K-12 and Institutions of Higher Education. The draft was sent last week to the Working Group for review, edits and additions. The Center appreciates the work of both Meghan Shelton and Greg Busch from the Advisory Board on this Working Group project.
 - There have been changes required to all state websites and communications for increased accessibility. Isaac Baah has been working diligently to update the Center's website and all of the Center's documents to ensure they meet the accessibility requirements.
 - There will be multiple trainings coming up over the next couple of months including Positive School Discipline 2/16/2022, the Institutions for Higher Education Summer Safety Symposium 6/2/2022, and the School Safety Academy 6/6/2022 - 6/10/2022. This fall, the annual Safe Schools Summit is already scheduled for the Adams 12 Five Star Conference Center on October 20th and 21st. In addition, as part of the Crisis Response Working Group efforts, the National Association of School Psychologists PREPaRE training will be hosted by the CSSRC in both February and March. Kati Garner is a PREPaRE trainer and the JeffCo/DeAngelis Center will provide the materials and the expertise of Franci Crepeau-Hobson, PhD. as the second trainer.
- Mr. Wilderman reminded the Board of the decision at the October 2021 meeting that Officer Kelly Jacobsen is now the Board Secretary. This was necessary as the previous secretary, Steve Fast, departed the Board and Craig Hein replaced Mr. Fast. Mr. Wilderman thanked Officer Jacobsen for serving in this capacity.
- Chairman Wilderman also requested the Board vote on whether the April 2022 meeting be held virtually instead of in-person to ensure the attendance of the YES² students who will be presenting the projects they have been working on over the last school year. The Board voted unanimously to hold the April 2022 meeting virtually.

Additional Updates on the CSSRC Activities - CSSRC Staff

- All the Fall statewide workshops went well. Ms. Harms reported 274 participants attended the Safe Schools Summit in October. One hundred and fifty experienced the Suicide Prevention Symposium in November. This was provided in collaboration with Dr. Lena Heilmann and the Office of Suicide Prevention. Unfortunately, only 52 were on for the Student/Staff Summit. Having scheduled the Summit earlier in the school year, the Center staff had no way of knowing there would be a conflict with exams that week which kept the attendance low. The Speakers' Series in January was another success not only for in-person attendance of 386 but 223 people have listened to one or more of the recordings since the scheduled dates.
- Advisory Board members are always welcome to attend CSSRC workshops. Please email Melissa Rubeo to register you. Melissa.rubeo@state.co.us
- Margaret Ochoa thanked the Board for all of their support for the Youth Engaged in School Safety (YES²) council. She shared that during the Student Staff Summit in 2021 the YES² students played a vital role in the success of the event. The students acted as co-presenters and panelists in the different plenary sessions which included mental health, healthy relationships, and [engagement strategies that adults use in schools](#). The current YES² council has 13 students and one project they chose to work on was to connect back with middle school students. The council members wanted to share information they wish they had known

before they entered high school. Another project the students chose to work on is a one-page statewide resource collection that includes mental health services for students. Ms. Ochoa, Dr. Lee and the council are currently working on their presentation for the Board during the April virtual meeting.

- Brad Stiles shared an update on the STOP Violence Grant project training. The Center staff has a number of trainings scheduled and there have been 24 schools or districts trained so far, including a mix of districts, charter schools, and private schools. Up until now, there have been three groups that were trained that have requested additional workshops for new staff. The Center will request a no-cost extension on the grant to give the evaluators at the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado, Boulder time to do a more extensive evaluation. Mr. Stiles mentioned that funding to pay staff stipends for attending the training, outside of regular contract time, will be available throughout the summer and invites schools not yet trained to consider participating.
- Kati Garner shared that the Center has started holding interviewing training as part of the STOP Violence Grant to help individuals better understand how to work with students and set up a comfortable interview environment with basic skills. There has been enthusiastic interest in this new training and the workshops have been very well received. The interview training is two hours long and involves active participation practicing the skills.
- Ms. Garner also reported on the conversion of the Colorado Threat Assessment Management Protocol of the STOP Violence Grant to an online version. This version will be housed on a secure, confidential platform where participating schools can track their assessments. The contract with the vendor is close to completion and then the work can commence. It is anticipated to be completed by the summer of 2022.
- Ron Lee shared an update on the group meetings that have been held throughout the year with individuals that manage and coordinate the suicide and threat assessments in their districts. During the meetings, some school professionals said that the volume of assessments are not as high this year as they were last year but many of the cases are more complicated. At the most recent threat assessment meeting, staff from the Division of Criminal Justice presented on informed supervision of students who have acted out in a sexually inappropriate manner. The Center has taken a stand that informed supervision and threat assessment require differently trained teams and protocols, discouraging districts from combining these efforts. The next networking meeting for suicide risk assessments will be February 8, 2022, and Laura Gabbay from the Office of Behavioral Health will be presenting on the IMATTER initiative. During the meetings there is always a mix of guest speakers to provide updated information to the schools as well as time to network and support one another.
- Director Harms added to the information presented earlier about the Statewide School Crisis Response Working Group. She wanted to extend a shoutout and thanks to Greg Busch. During a conversation with Brad Stiles, it became evident that Mr. Busch was working on a similar project for institutions of higher education (IHE). It seemed expedient to combine efforts and create Crisis Response Guidelines for K-12 and IHEs. Mr. Busch's suggestion has only made the Guidelines a more robust document. Ms. Harms further explained that this is not a new EOP, but an addendum to school EOPs. The Guidelines are designed from lessons learned previously in Colorado and elsewhere to help schools prepare before, have support during and consider what would be necessary after a major event.

Highlights of the Virtual Training on Suicide Prevention for Students of Color - Ron Lee, Psy.D.

- Dr. Ron Lee was asked to provide a highlight of his newest presentation on minority students and making sure equity, diversity and inclusiveness is being addressed when it comes to suicide prevention. Dr. Lee is a commissioner on the Statewide Suicide Prevention Commission.
- He shared that there have been a number of different initiatives on suicide prevention but his workshop is an effort to address upstream efforts to prevent suicide in these most vulnerable populations.
- After sharing his own background and why this work is so important to him, Dr. Lee gave an overview of the data, challenges, initiatives and other resources to address the issues.
- The Board members were very appreciative of the presentation and of having Dr. Lee on the staff of the Center.

Advisory Board Members' Updates

Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

- **Christina Monaco Larson**, Field Manager, NW Region, shared that currently CDE's main focus is to aid the 178 school districts across the state with their handling of COVID-19 and all the aspects the virus touches within education.
- CDE staff are trying to help school leaders with decision making and finding the necessary tools and resources to support their students and staff.
- CDE is also gearing up for the new legislative session which is expected to have a focus on funding.

Cheyenne Mtn. School District

- **Dr. Carolena Guiral Steen**, Assistant Superintendent of the Cheyenne Mountain School District, shared that she has found the mental health community forums from Sarah Youngren to be extremely informative.
- She also shared that her team is utilizing the suicide and threat assessments routinely and creating response plans for students.

Boulder County District Attorney's Office

- **Mr. Michael Dougherty**, District Attorney, apologized for arriving late to the meeting but the day has been very busy for his office due to a threat in Boulder County.
- He shared that he is looking forward to the upcoming legislative session and offered his time to collaborate with everyone on the worthwhile projects of the Center.
- Participants commented on the especially difficult last few months for residents of Boulder County and their government collaborators offering support and good wishes to Mr. Dougherty.

Estes Park Schools

- **Sheldon Rosenkrance**, Superintendent, shared that snow was currently falling very heavily and his office was weighing options for attendance at school in the morning.
- He also commented that a mask mandate, in effect since the beginning of the school year, will end in Larimer County within the next week and will require additional decisions for the school district.

Lake County Schools

- **Ms. Rebecca Hall**, Principal/Superintendent of Hinsdale Consolidated Schools, shared that due to COVID-19 the schools went to remote learning for a short period of time but at this point they are back to learning in person.
- She was happy to report that their district is past the spike in COVID-19 cases and seeing a light at the end of the tunnel, related to the virus, is a welcome change.

Colorado Department of Law

- **Stacey Jenkins**, Director of Safe2Tell, shared that Safe2Tell has completed their annual report covering the 2021 school year which was submitted to the legislature for review. This report is more comprehensive compared to past reports because, over time, more data requests have been made including mental health related self-report outcomes. While mental health related self-reports are not common, the outcomes were included in the report with mental health including suicide, depression, and self harm tips.
- She also shared that her team is wrapping up their new website which has taken longer than expected but they are almost ready to launch to the public. This work includes multiple main pages being converted to Spanish, some pages created specifically for the Spanish speaking audience and more accessibility for everyone.
- They are currently working with the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) for a grant to promote Safe2Tell at CU Boulder.
- Recently, their office initiated their student ambassador program which has 11 students working on projects to encourage reporting appropriate issues to Safe2Tell. The students will be presenting their projects to the Attorney General in May of 2022.

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment/Office of Suicide Prevention

- **Dr. Lena Heilmann**, Suicide Prevention Strategies Manager from the Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP), stated that last Friday the Commission approved a revised set of recommendations to support LGBTQIA2S+ youth and young adults. These revised recommendations are more intersectional and align closely with the Commission's 2021 recommendations to support Black, Indigenous, and Youth of Color. The OSP is now working on finalizing the document with the new LGBTQIA2S+ youth recommendations and will work on translating these into Spanish as well.
- Dr. Heilmann stated their office is starting a postvention work group through the Commission to review resources and supports offered after someone experiences a suicide crisis or a suicide loss. Kati Garner from the CSSRC has volunteered to serve on this committee.

Colorado School District Self Insurance Pool (CSDSIP)

- **Mr. Hein** reported that CSDSIP continues to support schools through the difficult last two years.
- Lately, they have been focusing on cybersecurity with their member districts.

Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS), Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice

- **Ms. Kelly Abbott**, the CDPS representative on the Advisory Board from the Division of Criminal Justice, stated that her office is currently working to wrap up juvenile justice reform and implement new policies.
- It is currently a busy legislative season for the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS), as there is a substantial crime prevention package introduced by the Governor's office being reviewed.
- One bill recently introduced is HB 22-1003, *Youth Delinquency Prevention and Intervention Grants*. This bill would create a pilot youth delinquency prevention and intervention grant program through the Division of Criminal Justice. The program would award 2-year grants to local governments, American Indian tribes, school districts and charter schools, and nonprofit organizations to fund projects to reduce crime among youth.
- HB22-1131, *Reduce Justice-involvement for Young Children*, would raise the minimum age of a juvenile who is subject to the juvenile court's jurisdiction from 10 to 13 years of age; except in the case of a homicide, then the juvenile court's jurisdiction extends to juveniles who are 10, 11 and 12 years of age.
- Ms. Abbott would be happy to keep the board apprised on the progress of bills that may be of interest to the members.
- Ms. Abbott also shared that the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Solicitation was just released. All schools, law enforcement and juvenile justice agencies can apply for the grant. The application due date is March 11, 2022.

Westminster Police Department

- **Officer Kelly Jacobsen**, School Resource Officer and officer for the Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO), shared that she met with members of the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) and members of COPS and discussed working on violence prevention with a model called SARA: Scan, Analyze, Respond, and Assess. This model is geared more towards schools in outer lying areas. Communities are working on having the school, law enforcement agency, and community work together.
- In addition, Officer Jacobsen shared that the I Love U Guys Foundation is looking for teens for their Chaparral Project. They too are looking for the student perspective on safety with this youth council. Interested youth can contact the [I Love U Guys Foundation](#).
- Officer Jacobsen said a number of legislatures across the country are supporting efforts to help SROs gather data on the positive contributions they make to the lives of students.
- The JeffCo Schools PTA is collaborating with JeffCO Kids and the Golden Rotary to hold QPR Trainings monthly. She also stated that the Tri County Suicide Coalition is sponsoring the second Helping Teens Thrive Together on March 12, virtually.

Colorado PTA

- **Dr. Lorrie Odom**, Co-Chair of the Health, Wellness, & Safety Committee for the Colorado PTA, commented that the events recently offered by the Center have been superb and she thanked the Center for their excellent work.
- She stated the PTA is having their 100th annual convention at the end of April and they are hoping that it will be able to be in person. Congratulations to the Colorado PTA!
- Dr. Odom shared that the PTA is supportive of a few specific bills that are being reviewed in this legislative session including healthy meals for all public school students at no cost because it is important to increase the nutritional content, the flavor and cultural appropriateness of the meals and to help remove the stigma associated with receiving free meals.
- Another bill they are supporting prohibits flavored tobacco products and regulated synthetic nicotine products that are currently slipping through loopholes in the current laws.
- Dr. Odom will send resource links to be distributed to the Advisory Board members.

Metropolitan State University

- **Mr. Mark Pokorny**, Environmental & Emergency Preparedness Manager for Metro State University, extended his generous offer to schools needing assistance with chemical or hazardous waste disposal.
- Anyone that is interested in the service can simply contact Mr. Pokorny. mpokorn1@msudenver.edu

Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH)

- **Ms. Meghan Shelton**, a Team-Lead and Program Manager at OBH, shared that the school-based mental health program is currently in high demand.
- There is also a challenge with students aged 12 seeking mental health services in schools as the state and federal laws are contradictory.
- Fifteen is the current federal age of consent for students accessing mental health services without the permission of their parents whereas recently the state law lowered the age to 12.

Denver Public Schools

- **Dr. Jane Lineman**, Student Safety Coordinator with Denver Public Schools, shared that Denver Public Schools is holding PREPaRE workshops for their staff in February and they offered the training to Aurora Public Schools in April.
- There are workshops and mini sessions coming up that will be hosted with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. High School and Middle School as well as Abraham Lincoln school.
- There will be a roundtable discussion with seniors on youth violence prevention and how they can help meet the students' needs.
- Dr. Lineman also stated that there is a youth prevention work group with mental health providers, normally there are between 15-30 people in attendance and the discussion is around what can be done in response to youth violence. They are looking to support a safe city youth summit with a panel presentation, they are currently seeking youth volunteers for the panel.

Having no further updates, Chairman Wilderman asked for final thoughts from the CSSRC staff. Director Harms thanked the Board for their attendance today as well as their ongoing support and praised the work of the CSSRC staff.

The meeting was then adjourned at 3:18 pm with thanks to everyone in attendance.

The next meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 1:30 will be virtual.

Next Scheduled Meetings:
April 5, 2022 - virtual
August 2, 2022 - virtual
October 4, 2022 - virtual