

NOTES
April 5 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
Michael Dougherty
Rebecca Hall
Lena Heilmann
Kelly Jacobsen
Stacey Jenkins
Jane Lineman
Lindley McCrary
Lorrie Odom
Sheldon Rosenkrance
Jenny Schoen
Meghan Shelton
Chris Wilderman

Absent:

Kevin Armstrong
Greg Busch
Carolena Guiral Steen
Craig Hein
Christina Monaco Larson
Mark Pokorny

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

Guests:

Yes2 Advisory Council:
Tess Betman
Hannah Bish
Meron Damtew
Isaac Doll
Annabelle Girard
Isabel Long
Anna Lyall
Syvannah McGuire
Anna Nepmuceno
Hope Williams

Welcome and Advisory Board Business – Chris Wilderman, Chair

- The meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm by the Chair, Chris Wilderman.
- Mr. Wilderman requested that all attendees provide a brief introduction. The board welcomed Lindley McCrary, the new representative from CASB and the Littleton Public Schools Board of Education.

- The Board reviewed meeting notes from the February 2, 2022, meeting. A motion was made by Officer Kelly Jacobsen to approve the notes as written and was seconded by Lorrie Odom, MD. The motion was carried by a majority.
- Director Harms reminded the Board that the next meeting will be on August 2, 2022, and will be virtual.

Youth Council - Youth Engaged in School Safety (YES²) *Margaret Ochoa, Ron Lee and Students*

- Margaret Ochoa and Ron Lee shared that it is currently recruiting season for the Youth Engaged for School Safety (YES²) Council. All application materials were shared in the April 2022 E-Update. Ms. Ochoa then asked the Board to consider any students they may know that would be interested in serving on the council and asked that they share the application with them.
- Ms. Ochoa stated that the Youth Council was joining the meeting today to share a variety of things that they have been working on over the last school year.
 - The Youth Council participated in the 2021 Student Staff Summit alongside the Center staff last December. Two students worked with Margaret Ochoa in the Healthy Relationships presentation. The students that helped present contributed much of the presentation from their work on dating violence and healthy relationships in their high school. They participate in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) club. Since the Summit, they have continued to offer student presentations. They shared that it seems many youth do not know whether situations are healthy or not. They are working to share the differences so the students can identify the behaviors and situations through discussions, quizzes, and more. The students indicated that they show both sides of the situation - the side of the person behaving inappropriately as well as the person who experienced harm so that it is a learning experience for all.
 - The group that worked closely with Ron Lee on the Summit discussed their presentation on how adults in schools can more successfully engage with youth. They discussed the differences they observed between engagement in small communities and large ones. During the workshop, Dr. Lee asked them questions about their experiences. They offered a multitude of suggestions. The summary of these suggestions can be found [here](#).
 - Another council member discussed the work Kati Garner presented with a student at the Summit regarding common mental health concerns. Unfortunately, stress is extremely common in and out of school so the students reported on strategies to address stress.
 - Another student shared that the council is preparing a one-pager identifying resources across the state for specific issues like substance abuse, eating disorders, etc. The goal is to ensure the youth who access the resource sheet can easily find assistance for their situation and feel empowered seeking help.
 - A council member discussed an opportunity that came her way due to her connections within the Department of Public Safety. Her work on YES² introduced her to a youth council within the Coalition for Juvenile Justice. That Coalition has a State Advisory Group in the Division of Criminal Justice. The youth council, called Emerging Leaders Committee (ELC), works for juvenile justice reform, equality of justice for all, and to help prevent delinquency in multiple communities. ELC wants to collect and amplify the youth voice that is usually not part of the large discussions in those areas. One of the ways to gather feedback is by using a Google form being sent out to those youth who have had contact with the criminal justice system to hear how the system has impacted them. Another goal of ELC is to leverage the experiences of youth in completing job and college applications to make the process more efficient.
 - The final student spoke about barriers to learning during the pandemic, including the lack of motivation and mental health challenges during and after the shutdown. She reported that many students felt isolated, found it difficult to stay focused, and struggled with the lack of stable learning environments.

- Advisory Board Members then had the opportunity to ask questions of the students and thank them for their contributions to school safety. Many Board Members commented on how much they appreciated hearing from the students.
- Chairman Wilderman suggested the students provide a panel discussion at the October Safe Schools Summit so that more adults can hear the students' perspectives. Once next year's council is selected, those returning will be asked to form this panel.
- Director Harms thanked the students for participating in the meeting and working so hard for the students of Colorado. She then invited the students to apply for next school year's council if they will still be in high school.

Legislative Updates - CSSRC Staff and Board Members

- Ms. Harms then shared legislative updates.
 - **HB22-1275** The Advisory Board sunseting bill has passed and is moving forward. The Board is to continue indefinitely. Mr. Wilderman was thanked for his testimony regarding the Advisory Board and their work.
 - CDPS Budget Update: The CDPS budgetary Decision Items are progressing. If passed, the Center will return to being a line item in the state's General Fund.
 - **SB22-085 (Colorado Safe Student Protection Program)** is a bill that was proposed two years ago to be facilitated by the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS). This version would be facilitated by the Colorado Department of Education. The bill would provide parents of bus riding students with no-cost secure digital notification and information tools; equip school buses with hardware and software that monitor driver behavior and enable communication with first responders; and fund bus safety training. The bill would provide grants to schools for these components. The bill also requires CDE to contract with a program facilitator. Even if signed, the bill does not go into effect until \$500,000 is raised via gifts, grants or donations.
 - **House Bill 22-1120 (School Security Disbursement Program Recreation)** In 2018, there was a security disbursement program that was a one-time only grant and of the schools that applied, there was over \$60M worth of needs including fences, cameras and more. That bill was able to provide funds for half of what was requested. Unfortunately, this bill is only for \$6M.
- Kelly Abbott shared legislative updates:
 - **HB 22-1003 (Youth Delinquency Prevention & Intervention Grant)** might be of interest to the Board. The bill is about providing services for youth delinquency prevention and intervention through the CDPS, Division of Criminal Justice. It has already passed through the House and is now in the Senate and Appropriations.
 - Another bill of interest is **HB 22-1131 (Reduce Justice Involvement for Young Children)** This will move the jurisdiction of the courts on youth from age 10 to age 13, excluding homicide cases.
 - She then shared information on **SB 22-145 (Resources to Increase Community Safety)** This bill will initiate three grant programs for areas with high volume of violent crime for prevention and intervention. The grants will be available to law enforcement agencies. Ms. Abbott stated that she will share more information with the Board as it becomes available.
- Someone asked about **HB22-1106 (Concealed Handguns on School Grounds)**. Board member Lindley McCrary reported this bill has been postponed indefinitely.

CSSRC Activities - CSSRC Staff

- Director Harms shared an update on the activities of the Center.
 - Earlier in the year, the Center held their Positive School Discipline Symposium and there were 288 registrants with a final count of 213 attendees.
 - The Center recorded specific sessions after receiving approval from the presenters which allowed another 70 individuals to listen to the recordings after the event. She shared that the Center will be recording sessions that are preapproved by presenters as this creates a broader reach for the information to our schools.
- In February, Kati Garner trained virtually with Franci Crepeau-Hobson on the topic of PREPaRE with financial support from the Jeffco DeAngelis Foundation. There will be another PREPaRE training on June 27 & 28, 2022, in-person at the DeAngelis Center as attending an in-person session is required to become a trainer.
- Brad Stiles provided an update regarding the Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) Summer Safety Symposium which will be held virtually on June 2, 2022. There will be four presenters speaking on topics including Title IX, Diffusing Toxic Situations, Navigating Intimate Image Abuse, and Radicalizing Ideology. The event will wrap up with a presentation by Mr. Stiles and Dr. Lee of the Center, on the new Crisis Response Guidelines which were released in the April 2022 E-Update. The Center is currently working on creating a training about the guidelines which will be shared throughout the state.
- Margaret Ochoa updated the Board on the School Safety Specialists' Academy that will be held June 6 - 11, 2022, for five hours per day. The Academy was created to cover foundational school safety components that Center staff can present as content experts in collaboration with external partners from Safe2Tell, the ILuvUGuys Foundation, Colorado Department of Education (CDE), Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), the Colorado Crisis Education and Response Network (CoCERN), a representative from the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, the DeAngelis Center, Colorado Association for School Resource Officers, and school/community partners from rural areas.
- The Center will be hosting their annual Colorado Safe School Summit on October 20 - 21, 2022 in-person and virtually. The first day will be in-person at the Adams 12 Conference Center for a day of plenaries that will also be live-streamed. The second day will be completely virtual with one hour workshops that will be divided into three sessions at a time, as in the past, leaving a potential for 30 workshops in one day. Registration will be available on the Center's website.
- The Center has recently had two trainers accepted as presenters for national conferences with the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) and multiple locations of the summer Campus Safety Conferences.
- Brad Stiles discussed the current status of the work on the STOP Violence Grant. At this point, the Center staff has been completing two to three trainings a month to ensure as many schools and teams are trained as possible before the end of the grant training period in September of 2022. Once that time period has passed, CSPV will take on the research and case study portion of the grant project including the final report to the National Institute of Justice.
- Kati Garner shared that the online threat assessment tool the Center has been working to develop with the STOP Violence Grant is currently being built by Modified Logic. The online tool will have the screen, full assessment, Response, Management & Support plan, follow up and reentry guidance included in it. The developer the Center is working with has completed systems that operate the same way previously which leads to the hope that the Center can begin training on the tool in late summer 2022.
- Ron Lee has been facilitating two networking groups on Threat Assessment and Suicide Prevention throughout the year. The final meeting for the Suicide Prevention group will be this following Tuesday and there will be discussion on a child fatality protection system. Some of the discussions from the meetings include self care for staff and students as the number of suicide assessments are not going up across the board but more severe cases are being addressed. The Threat

Assessment group had a good meeting in March that included a great deal of information sharing by attendees. The last meeting for that group will be held on May 10, 2022.

- Margaret Ochoa shared a third working group she will facilitate on May 3, 2022. This will include mental health professionals working with students who have problematic sexual behavior.

Advisory Board Members' Updates

CASB Board of Education

- **Lindley McCrary** is the newest member of the Advisory Board and this was her first meeting. She shared that the CASB team is currently working on the same issues surrounding mental health and concerns about escalating negative behaviors, weapons on campus, and concern for the welfare of students and staff as previously mentioned.
- She is newly elected to the CASB board which will focus this year on equity and how CASB can support their member boards in providing an equitable learning environment for all students.
- In her district, Littleton Public schools, students have a real passion for sharing their voice and being part of the decision making process. The board is in talks with the student government team to start a student advisory committee that would be selected by their board. The goal is to have a very diverse group of students across the district. Currently it appears the work will include monthly meetings and the CASB board members will rotate and spend time with the students. Ms. McCrary is currently spearheading this work for the team and is very excited about this project. The hope is to have their Board's approval shortly with the student group up and running by the end of June 2022. She will provide an update at the next Board meeting.

Westminster Police Department

- **Officer Kelly Jacobsen**, School Resource Officer and officer for the Colorado Association of School Resource Officers (CASRO), shared that they are expecting approximately 900 attendees at the upcoming NASRO conference this summer in Denver. This is one of the trainings at which Kati Garner, CSSRC's NW Regional Training Consultant, will be leading a session. Officer Jacobsen shared that this is the first time in approximately 20 years that the NASRO conference will be held in Colorado.
- She also commented that NASRO's basic SRO class includes a threat assessment process. This brought to her attention that many states do not have threat assessment processes in place as Colorado does.

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

- **Dr. Lena Heilmann**, Suicide Prevention Strategies Manager from the Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP), shared that her office is convening the postvention work group and they are currently working to identify goals and points of intersection for people of all ages including youth and young adults. In the youth specific initiatives work group, they are focusing efforts on recommendations for young adults (19 - 24).
- Her office is also working on how to support a comprehensive statewide K-12 suicide prevention school policy. She will share more information at the next Board meeting.

Colorado Department of Law

- **Stacey Jenkins**, Director of Safe2Tell, shared that her office has a Student Ambassador program which is similar to the Center's YES² council and they are wrapping up their inaugural year. The program participants will be making their final presentations next month to the Attorney General. The application process for the next year has opened.
- Ms. Jenkins also shared that the new Safe2Tell website will be launching this month while their office is interviewing to fill the recently vacated trainer position. The new trainer is expected to be on board by May and able to provide presentations by the new school year in the fall.

Colorado PTA

- **Dr. Lorrie Odom**, Co-Chair of the Health, Wellness, & Safety Committee for the Colorado PTA, commented that it is inspiring to have the students participate and share their wisdom with the board today. She stated that she will be sending a variety of resources including an online resource for parents of school-age children on teaching social and emotional skills at home.
- The National PTA shared a summary of findings from the CDC Survey of Adolescent Behaviors and Experiences, January - June 2021. This survey covers the challenges and experiences that adolescents had during the pandemic including hopelessness, substance abuse, and suicidal thoughts or intentions. Those who felt close to people at school or who reported strong connections with family and peers were less likely to report such concerns.
- Dr. Odom also informed the Board that the Jefferson Center for Mental Health will be offering a free online presentation on April 25, 2022, on Managing Survival Mode through self-compassion, self-regulation, & self-care. There will also be multiple virtual QPR Trainings in April, May and June. She will be sharing the information with the Board. Finally, there will be virtual Mental Health First Aid training in April, May, and June as well.

Denver Public Schools

- **Dr. Jane Lineman**, Student Safety Coordinator with Denver Public Schools (DPS), shared that DPS is going through a reorganization and restructuring. They will be hosting two in-person PREPaRE training sessions for Aurora Public Schools and she invites others who would like to participate to contact her.
- Dr. Lineman's district completed a mental health day in collaboration with the Denver Department of Public Health in March. She attended a youth round table session which revealed there are lots of misconceptions around Safe2Tell and would like to ensure more information is shared that would empower the students to understand the program better and utilize the services as appropriate.
- Other information garnered was around suicide prevention programming and requests for more speakers with lived-experience, requests for roundtable opportunities for more prevention programming, and practice calls to crisis centers so students can experience what it is like to make that call. This has given Dr. Lineman much to think about related to suicide prevention in the schools.
- Some DPS schools are closing and consolidating with other schools so she is looking for resources on how to reunify the schools and communities especially in areas with high crime rates.

Lake County Schools

- **Ms. Rebecca Hall**, Superintendent/Principal of Hinsdale Consolidated Schools, shared that she is currently reviewing the results of the most recent Healthy Kids Colorado Survey in order to plan ways of addressing student mental wellness issues in the next academic year. '
- She also shared that there was an increase in people moving into the county/city during the pandemic. This has resulted in increases in the student population in the schools, housing stress, rises in living costs and other stressors. While trying to take care of the students through the pandemic, there has also been an increase in the need to support the adults in the building.

Estes Park Schools

- **Sheldon Rosenkrance**, Superintendent for Estes Park School District, thanked everyone for all that they do for rural schools and their students. He thanked the Center for making many of the training offered half-day sessions and recording sessions as often as possible for later viewing as it allows a larger number of rural staff to attend without additional travel. He reminded the Board that he is working closely with the Rural Alliance and suggests sharing additional information on services and resources that can be shared with the 100+ superintendents that attend those meetings.

Colorado Department of Education

- **Christina Monaco**, Field Manager NW Region for the CDE, was unable to attend the meeting but shared her update with Director Harms before the meeting. Ms. Monaco reported that CDE is waiting patiently for the current legislative session to end so the new updates can be effectively implemented in the schools.
- Recently, there have been a lot of requests for assistance to fill positions that are opening in classrooms and leadership levels as well as requests for special service providers like school psychologists, food service, and transportation personnel.
- Ms. Monaco said that CDE is working to improve the pipeline opportunities and postsecondary pathways for students who may be interested in careers in education.
- CDE is helping districts navigate the ESSER funding and reporting requirements and helping them think through how best to use these rare, one-time funds in ways that can be considered impactful and sustainable. The state is full of committed, talented educators and CDE knows they have a lot of work to do at the state level to support them and our students to ensure equity, equality and diversity are being addressed in ways that help everyone succeed.

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. Director Harms will send an update in June to all board members.

The meeting was then adjourned at 3:35 pm with thanks to everyone in attendance.

The next meeting on Tuesday, August 2, 2022 at 1:30 will be virtual.



Next Scheduled
Meetings:
August 2, 2022 - virtual
October 4, 2022 - virtual
February 7, 2023 - TBD
April 4, 2023 - virtual