

NOTES
October 4, 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
Todd Bittner
Greg Busch
Michael Dougherty
Desiree Goheen
Carolena Guiral Steen
Rebecca Hall
Lena Heilmann

Craig Hein
Christina Larson
Jane Lineman
Lindley McCrary
Lorrie Odom
Mark Pokorny
Meghan Shelton
Chris Wilderman

Absent:

Kelly Jacobsen
Stacey Jenkins

Staff Present:

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

Welcome and Advisory Board Business – Christine Harms, Director

- The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by the Chair, Chris Wilderman.
- Mr. Wilderman requested that all attendees provide a brief introduction. The board welcomed Desiree Goheen, the newest Board member. Ms. Goheen is a teacher in the East Otero School District.
- Director Harms then introduced Kelly Addington, SE Regional Training Consultant, who is the newest member of the Center’s team. Kelly was most recently with the Santa Fe Trails BOCES and will be operating out of La Junta.
- The Board reviewed meeting notes from the August 2, 2022, meeting. A motion was made by Chris Wilderman to approve the notes as written and was seconded by Lorrie Odom, MD. The motion was carried by a majority.
- Director Harms thanked Michael Dougherty and Lorrie Odom for agreeing to serve on the Board for another two years, shared that Kelly Jacobsen was reappointed for another two years and the next meeting will be February 7, 2023, virtually.

CSSRC Activities - CSSRC Staff

- Ms. Harms shared that the NE Regional Training Consultant position will be reopened later this month and will close in early November. Ms. Harms commented on how very busy all the staff have been this fall and asked members of the staff to give some brief updates on their activities.

- Ms. Ochoa said that she has been focusing on multiple back to school trainings, statewide conferences, virtual trainings, and planning the upcoming CSSRC Safe School Summit and other regional trainings.
- Ms. Ochoa also provided an update on the Youth Engaged in School Safety (YES²) council and the upcoming student staff safety conferences that will be held in Colorado Springs, Hayden and La Junta. Staff and the students have been working diligently on presentations that will be at each event.
- Director Harms shared with the Board that Ms. Ochoa has been invited by the Gender Policy Office of the White House to participate in the President's Task force on online abuse which will include a series of roundtable discussions.
- Dr. Lee, who just completed his first year with the Center, shared that he has completed over 25 training sessions since March including co-training quite a bit on Threat Assessment with Brad Stiles, presenting at three Campus Safety conferences last summer, and completing new equity work for the Center.
- Isaac Baah shared that October is Safe Schools Month and the Center will be holding their Summit, which is their biggest regional training of the year. This year's Summit registration has far exceeded all past years and is expected to continue climbing. The Center will be utilizing new technology to stream the first day live. Staff have been working hard to master the new technology in hopes that they will be able to livestream future events so anyone interested can attend without having to be in-person. Mr. Baah also shared that he is working diligently to update the online courses that the Center has created.
- Director Harms shared that the Center received a SIPA grant to create an additional online course providing information on the threat assessment process for parents and guardians. That would be course number 18.
- Melissa Rubeo shared an update on the upcoming Safe School Summit. The event will be held at the Adams 12 Conference Center in Thornton on October 20, 2022. The first day will be four national plenaries. Day two will be completely virtual through Zoom with thirty workshops throughout the day.
- Director Harms shared that there has been quite a bit of interest in school safety across the country in the wake of the Uvalde tragedy. Other states are reporting more threat assessments being done, more physical altercations at schools, especially during sporting events, and concern regarding locks on classroom doors. The Center has created an anonymous survey to be completed by schools and districts around the state to see how many districts would need push-button locks or new exterior doors with a push bar. The hope is to educate policy makers with this information. She then shared that after the Summit, the Center will be hosting their Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention Symposium on November 15. The event will be in-person and will utilize the same streaming system as the Summit. Director Harms thanked Lena Heilmann for assisting with selecting excellent presenters for the event and sharing introduction duties that day.
- The Center is also arranging multiple Student and Staff Safety events and the topics were selected by the YES² council since they are very aware of the issues. In addition to the council students presenting with staff, Sources of Strength will conduct interactive plenary sessions for the students at all three events.
- The Center staff will be traveling to Grand Junction for a Western Colorado Safety Summit and then will take many of the same topics to Alamosa.
- The January speakers series, started during COVID-19, will be continued this January with three national speakers. These 60-minute sessions will be held on three Tuesdays in January and recorded for later viewing by school staff and parents. Please see the November E-Update for further information.
- Director Harms shared that Margaret Ochoa is working to find presenters for the upcoming Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Intervention Symposium; the Center is hoping to host a Threat Assessment Symposium, and has solidified the Institutions for Higher Education Symposium date

and location for June 1, 2023. The Center is able to provide these trainings at no cost to attendees due to funding received specifically for these events requested by the Governor's office and approved by the Colorado legislature.

- Brad Stiles shared that for the last three years his main focus has been threat assessment work due to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), National Institute of Justice (NIJ) grant award. The training portion of the grant has ended and the extension that has been granted is specifically for the evaluation by the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV). While the grant training is done, the Center is still offering threat assessment training around the state. Part of the project was conducting a survey before and after the sessions to gauge the trainees' knowledge and every school showed an increase in learning and trainers demonstrated fidelity in the presentations. Overall the Center trained more than 30 teams while the goal was 30 schools, and most of the training sessions had multiple schools in attendance. There were 645 personnel trained in the grant and 23,000 resources provided.
- Kati Garner shared that also as part of the grant Mr. Stiles discussed, they are working to develop an online threat assessment case management system that will be free for schools to use to complete threat assessments, response management plans and store the data. This online system will be beneficial for consistency and continuity and will give the schools a platform that is secure. The development of this system originally started with the state's OIT team but was moved to an outside vendor who is using Laserfiche. The system also included notification features so that all work must be completed and students will be supported. Originally, the Center wanted to release this program at the beginning of the school year, but it is still in the testing phase. The hope is to roll it out shortly.
- An important reminder about the threat assessment online system is that the state does not have access to the data entered. Only each district has access to their data.

Advisory Board Members' Updates

Colorado Department of Education

- **Christina Monaco**, Field Manager for the NW Region for the CDE, thanked the CSSRC team for all of the work that they have done over this past year. Her department currently echoes the sentiments about the need for mental health support and the desire to create a sense of belonging and safety in all schools. CDE is currently gearing up for the next legislative session and upcoming potential bills.

Metropolitan State University

- **Mr. Mark Pokorny**, Environmental & Emergency Preparedness Manager for Metro State University, shared that he was contacted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation about chemical awareness training. After visiting Metro State University and discussing these hazards, the visit was followed by a demonstration with the Greeley Police Department on just how dangerous these chemicals can be. Mr. Pokorny then repeated his generous offer to help any schools about the storage and disposal of their hazardous materials. His offer is very much appreciated.

Boulder County District Attorney's Office

- **Mr. Michael Dougherty**, District Attorney, stated that there has been an increase in the number of serious cases involving juveniles, young offenders and victims within his county and across the state. There is currently a focus on drinking and driving and he is working with school districts on how to raise awareness and get parents more engaged. His office's investigations have uncovered companies making and distributing fake IDs, liquor stores not verifying identification, parents hosting parties where underage drinking is occurring, and party buses transporting underage inebriated individuals.

Denver Public Schools

- **Dr. Jane Lineman**, Student Safety Coordinator with Denver Public Schools (DPS), shared that recently there was a swatting incident at her school which has given them a new focus. She also shared that they are currently working on how to support contracted employees with safety and programming. Dr. Lineman stated that she recently completed PREPaRE Workshop One and is working to revamp their crisis protocol at all levels to strengthen their response teams.

Cheyenne Mtn. School District

- **Dr. Carolena Guiral Steen**, Assistant Superintendent of the Cheyenne Mountain School District, shared that her district is working to get crisis teams and others back on track but there are challenges to getting everyone trained. They have also increased their security within their district with a number of new armed security officers all of whom have previous military or law enforcement experience.

Hinsdale County School District

- **Ms. Rebecca Hall**, Principal/Superintendent of Hinsdale County School, shared that her district has started training in the suicide gatekeeper training of Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) program as the schools have been prioritizing mental health of the students. The district will be hosting a middle school/high school bullying and suicide prevention training tomorrow night. Ms. Hall reported that they have utilized the paper threat assessment protocol and they are extremely excited for the online system the Center is developing. She also offered her time to help test the system. Thank you!

Colorado School Districts Self Insurance Pool

- **Craig Hein**, General Counsel, shared that CSDSIP will be hosting a safety symposium in Lone Tree this year and he is eager to hear feedback on the event. He will share more information at the next meeting. This event will be on- day with presentations on fentanyl, the Douglas County Handle With Care program and an analysis of the STEM shooting. The Center also appreciates that CSDSIP is the main sponsor of the upcoming Colorado Safe Schools Summit.

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

- **Dr. Lena Heilman**, Director of the Colorado Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP), shared that her office has been busy gearing up for a newly awarded 5-year SAMHSA grant that will support youth suicide prevention, reviewing funding streams, and hosting meetings to set an agenda for the 2023 year. She also reported that the suicide fatality data for 2021 is now on their interactive dashboard online and encouraged everyone to view the information. The dashboard breaks down trends in categories such as age range, gender, geographic regions etc. Dr. Heilmann shared that there has been no statistically significant change in youth (ages 10-18) suicide fatality rates in Colorado since 2015.

Norwood School District

- **Todd Bittner**, Superintendent of Norwood Schools, shared that recently it seems their schools are losing a large percentage of students and income which impacts their ability to provide safety and security measures in rural schools. He also stated that his district is very excited to see how the Center's online threat assessment system will function. He volunteered to help test also. Thank you!

CASB Board of Education

- **Lindley McCrary**, CASB & Littleton Public Schools board member, reported that their office recently hired a firm to assist them in their Executive Director search.. Twice a year there is a delegate assembly to put resolutions to the Board of Directors for the coming legislative session. There was a resolution specifically for rural schools and specialized life skills, SPED, career and tech

education, advocacy for internet connectivity and student achievement. There was another resolution supporting a proposal to use video cameras on school buses to catch external vehicles violating traffic laws. The assembly will meet after the Center’s Summit. Ms. McCrary will share the updated information at the next meeting.

Gilpin County Sheriff Department

- **Sheriff Kevin Armstrong** stated that the beginning of this school year was rough with an upsetting social media post from a student with a weapon. Fortunately the individual was apprehended with no further issues. He also shared that recently he was an observer at an active school shooting exercise in Grand County and feels this would be beneficial in Gilpin County.

Colorado PTA

- **Lorrie Odom, MD**, Co-Chair of the Health, Wellness, & Safety Committee for the Colorado PTA, shared that she will be providing resources from the JeffCO PTA for Communities that Care on marijuana. She also stated that recently there was a report of rainbow fentanyl pills that are mimicking candy and she warned that everyone should be on the lookout. Dr. Odom reported that the Colorado PTA supports Proposition 123 for affordable housing that will be voted on in the next election. She also urged people to support the proposition for healthy school meals for all and oppose the measure that would reduce property taxes as this would hurt Colorado school funding..

Colorado Community College System

- **Greg Busch**, Emergency Management Director for the Colorado Community College System, told the group that after the tragedy in Texas, there has been an increase in requests for vulnerability assessments at campuses. He will be attending a meeting to review procedures in active shooter situations.

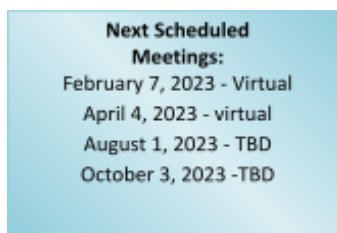
Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS), Division of Criminal Justice, Office of Adult and Juvenile Justice

- **Ms. Kelly Abbott**, Manager, OAJJA and CDPS representative on the Advisory Board from the Division of Criminal Justice, stated that her office is working on organizing and facilitating all the new committees created from the 2022 Legislative Session. One committee will focus on the effects of expulsion and suspension of students in the juvenile justice system and another will investigate the increase in serious crimes committed by juveniles.

Having no further updates, Mr. Wilderman asked for final thoughts from the CSSRC staff. He then 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 3:08 pm with thanks to everyone in attendance.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 1:30 and it will be virtual.



Next Scheduled Meetings:
February 7, 2023 - Virtual
April 4, 2023 - virtual
August 1, 2023 - TBD
October 3, 2023 -TBD