



COLORADO

Office of School Safety

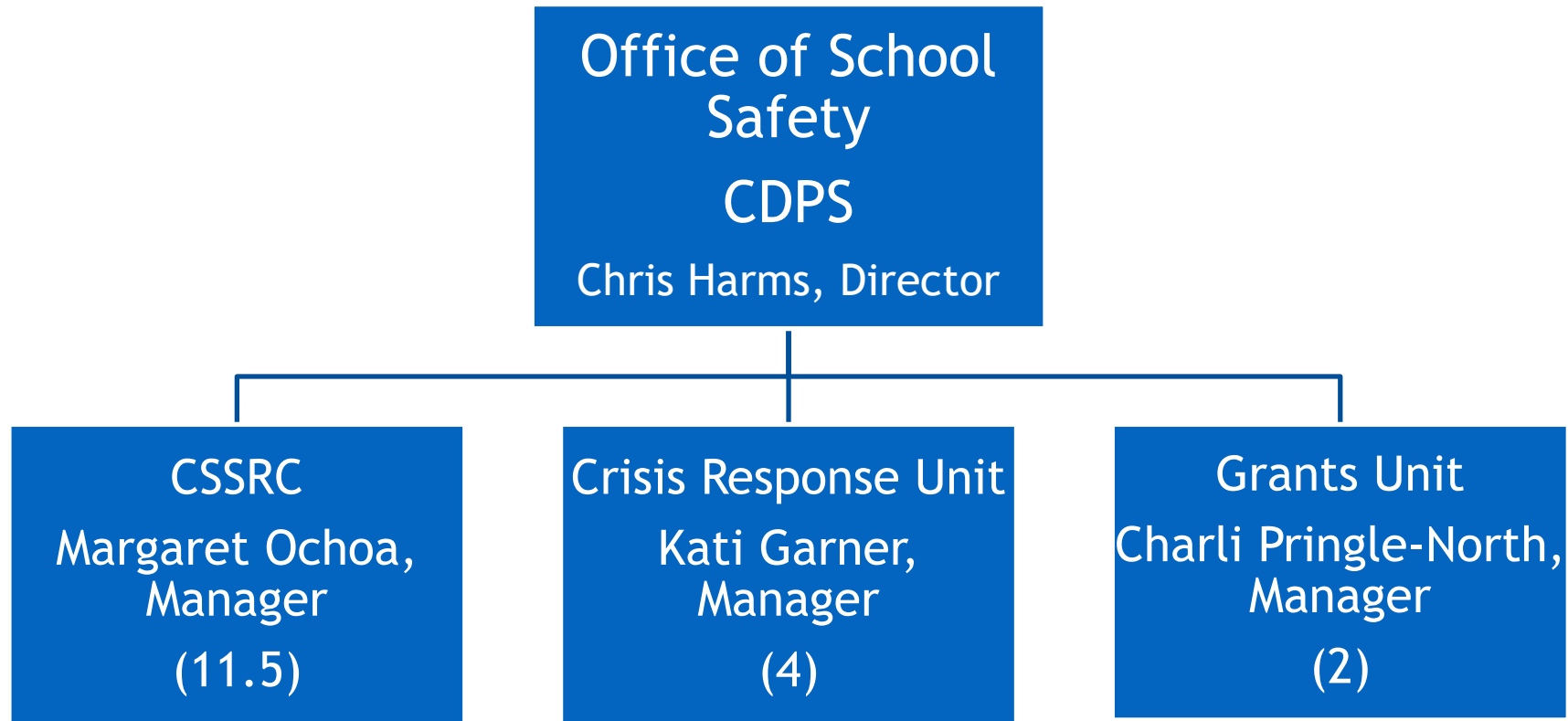
Department of Public Safety

COLORADO OFFICE OF SCHOOL SAFETY

Christine R. Harms MS, Director

Kati Garner MA, Manager, Crisis Response Unit

Office of School Safety - SB23-241



Colorado School Safety Resource Center

- Provides training, resources, consultation and technical assistance
- Pre-K through higher education
- Staff include: mental health professionals, former law enforcement professional and school administrator
- Regional training consultants in the SE, E, NE, SW, NW
- Training on both physical and psychological safety topics, such as:
 - Emergency operations planning, tabletop exercises, threat assessment, suicide assessment, bullying prevention, child sexual abuse prevention and a host of others

Grants Unit

- Charli Pringle-North and one staff member
- **Youth Violence Prevention Grant** (\$1M for one year applications due 11/13)
 - Programs to prevent & intervene in youth violence
 - Schools and communities
- **School Security Disbursement Grant** (\$16M for one year)
 - RFP will be out in December/January
- **School Access for Emergency Services (SAFER) Grant** (\$5M/year thru 6/30/28)
 - School/community interoperability grant
 - RFP probably in April
- Grant workshops on finding and securing grants

Youth Violence Prevention Grant

- Public schools, public charter schools, community-based organizations, and cities and counties with youth diversion or probation programs
- Develop & implement strategies for the prevention of youth violence
- Develop & implement strategies for youth violence intervention
- Application deadline: November 13, 2023
- Grants up to \$100,000/each
- Link on our website: <https://oss.Colorado.gov>

School Security Disbursement Grant

- Developing and providing training programs, curriculums and seminars related to school safety incident response
- Implementing a school resource officer program
- Implementing a co-responder program
- Capital construction that improves the security of a public school facility or public school vehicle: (I) Prevents the entry of unauthorized individuals into a public school facility or a protected space within a public school facility or onto a public school vehicle; or (II) Can be used to expedite communication when a threat is present;

School Access for Emergency Services (SAFER)

- Continuation of the original SAFER grant
- \$5 M/year until 6/30/2028
- For interoperable communications (not building radios)
- MUST have a current MOU with community partners
- MUST have a current EOP with appropriate school contacts updated
- Without either of these two things, your grant will not be scored
- We expect the RFP to go out as it did last year in May 2024

Crisis Response Unit

- Kati Garner MA, Manager
- Three additional staff members
- All mental health professionals
- They will be trained in PREPaRE & other crisis response issues
 - They will be able to train others in PREPaRE
 - They will be available to respond, on a limited basis, to any school with a critical incident

New Initiatives

- **School Safety Working Group (SSWG)** established December 2022
 - Created in legislation - SB20-023 and HB22-1274
 - Mission: To review the work of the state agencies involved in school safety efforts
 - Look for duplication
 - Consider evaluation
 - Find gaps
 - Make recommendations to the legislature
- Work was conducted by committees
 - Behavioral and Mental Health Committee
 - Access to Services Committee
 - Gap Analysis
 - Sustainability
 - Metrics & Data
 - Physical Safety
- Report due to the legislature December 2023

Initial Findings

- Inventory uncovered 160+ resources with little or no duplication
- Accessing those resources has been difficult for schools
- Data gathering is inconsistent and not cross referenced
- No consistent means of finding out what schools still need (anecdotal)
- Fire departments do conduct regular inspections for fire compliance
- Although there are regulations for health and safety in the schools, inspections are at the discretion mainly of the local health departments

Tentative Recommendations

- Creation of a technological solution to house and update all resources
- Ongoing collaboration of state agencies necessary for updates
- OSS will institute the accessing suggestions for ease of use of the resource library
- Physical safety committee will create best practices checklist for school sites
- Metrics & data committee to find more consistent ways to measure the work being done and share the information

Ongoing Initiative

Colorado School Safety Initiative (CSSI) established April 2023

- Confluence Policy & Strategy and Public Education & Business Coalition (PEBC)
- Broader mission
 - Look at school and community safety
 - Will be informed by the work of the SSWG
 - Will consult with local agencies doing school safety work
- Quarterly updates including a report to the legislature in January
- Ongoing project
- 200 community volunteers

Upcoming Events

- **Annual Youth Suicide Prevention Symposium**
 - Thursday, November 16th at the Lowry Center
 - In-person and virtual
- **Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Symposium**
 - Thursday, April 4th Virtual
- **IHE Summer Safety Symposium**
- **School Safety Specialist Academy**
- **SRO - NASRO Basic 40 hour training & supervisors' training**



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Thank you for all you do to keep students safe!

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