



Colorado Interagency Working Group on School Safety (SSWG)

March 23, 2023 Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

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| Welcome | CDPS Director Stan Hilkey welcomed members, gave a brief summary and background of the legislation that formed the School Safety Working Group, then introduced Chris Harms, Director of the School Safety Resource Center at CDPS. |
| Introduction of Facilitation Team | Chris Harms introduced Berrick Abramson of Confluence PSG as the facilitation and support team for the SSWG. Berrick introduced the Confluence project management and facilitation team Jamita Horton and Carrie Steele. Berrick described the role of their team as providing logistics support, meeting planning and facilitation and ensuring SSWG members receive the information and hear from the perspectives necessary to conduct their work. He emphasized that while they have extensive experience working with groups on school safety, their role is as a neutral facilitator, to ensure all perspectives are heard and relevant research or expertise made available to the members. Berrick then reviewed a proposed set of operating agreements and norms for the meeting which focused on robust, respectful discussion and participation. |
| Member Introductions | <p>Members were invited to introduce themselves by name, agency or organization, role etc. and to share one or both of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the top thing in your mind we have to get right in our work together? • What is your biggest concern about the path ahead for the SSWG? <p>Themes in member answers included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping resources and starting a gap analysis to know what already exists, where it intersects, and what is missing. • Ensuring all groups/organizations (including any formed since legislation was enacted to form the SSWG) are at the table. • Making sure the SSWG reviews the impact of school safety on the recruitment and retention of professionals in education. • Ensuring the SSWG considers a statewide perspective which includes urban, rural and suburban perspectives and making sure programs benefit all. • Addressing concerns over physical and emotional safety and making sure parents, students and school staff feel safe. • Identifying gaps in technology and human resources across districts; • Ensuring equitable access to programs for all. |
| Work of the SSWG | <p>Berrick provided an overview of the work ahead for the SSWG including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the tasks outlined by the legislation that created the SSWG; • A timeline and overview of meetings including the use of four subcommittees; • The asks and expectations of members; • The role of the SSWG (providing input and ideas vs. decision making); • The expected need for adding voices through subcommittee membership, presentations, panels and distributed materials. |
| Auditor's Report Presentation | <p>A representative of the Auditor's office provided an overview of the report, the purpose of which was to provide answers to the public about state programs for improving school safety. The report primarily focused on 5 categories, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe2Tell • Training and technology support; • Funding for capital improvements; • Funding for emergency preparedness; • Funding to address school climate; <p>The auditors report did not make specific recommendations and instead provided a deep dive into the system level information and services available at the time.</p> |

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| Prioritizing & Learning: Our Work Ahead | Facilitators shared that following the meeting, they would be working with Chris Harms to review information presented in today’s meeting, member input and the information from one on one conversations to identify topics for the subgroups and the sequencing of topics for those as well as the quarterly SSWG meetings. As part of that planning, it was emphasized that the SSWG will ensure there is a diverse cross-section of inputs and perspectives to analyze programs and solutions that can have immediate effects as well as more long term challenges such as funding solutions. |
| Next Steps | The Confluence team explained next steps including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of minutes; • Scheduling of next SSWG meeting (June); • Expected timeline for first subcommittee meetings; • Invitation for members to connect with the project team. |

If you have questions about this meeting or upcoming meetings, please contact:

SSWG Facilitators

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Working Group Lead

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