



**Meeting Attendees:**

**Advisory Board Members present on Google Meets:**

Lena Heilmann	Rebecca Hall
Suzy Morris	Mark Pokorny
Chris Wilderman	Kelly Jacobsen
Sarah Fishing	Stacey Jenkins
Christina Monaco	Jane Lineman

**Absent:**

Craig Hein  
Kevin Armstrong  
Carolena Guiral Steen  
Greg Busch  
Desiree Goheen  
Kelly Abbott

**Staff Present:**

Christine Harms, Director, Office of School Safety  
Margaret Ochoa, Manager, Colorado School Safety Resource Center  
Kati Garner, Crisis Unit Manager  
Charli North, Grants Manager  
Cary Lynch, School Outreach Consultant (CSSRC)  
Amy Miglinas, SW Regional Training Consultant (CSSRC)  
Jae Dee Wood, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Specialist (CSSRC)  
Brad Stiles, Emergency Response Outreach Consultant (CSSRC)  
Kelly Addington, SE Regional Training Consultant (CSSRC)  
Kelly Donnelly, NW Regional Training Consultant (CSSRC)  
Mike Vagher, Eastern Regional Training Consultant (CSSRC)  
Chelsey Lehmkuhl, NW Regional Training Consultant (CSSRC)  
Melissa Rubeo, Resource Specialist (CSSRC)  
Leah Lefever, Crisis Response Specialist (CRU)  
Chamone Jones, Grants Specialist (Grants Unit)

**Public:**  
Rick Fox

## **Welcome and Advisory Board Business - *Officer Kelly Jacobsen, Chair***

- The meeting was called to order by Margaret Ochoa at 1:32 PM. Kelly Jacobsen was in and out of a training, so Margaret Ochoa chaired the meeting during her absences.
- Margaret Ochoa requested that all OSS staff and board members provide a brief introduction. Cary Lynch and Amy Miglinas, new hires since the last Advisory Board meeting, introduced themselves. New Crisis Response Specialist Leah Lefever also met the Board.
- Ms. Ochoa and Director Harms expressed deep appreciation for the service of Michael Dougherty and Lorrie Odom, whose terms have expired on the Board. Both served as the governor's appointees for district attorneys and a representative of a parent group, respectively. Mr. Dougherty and Dr. Odom continually showed their dedication and commitment to school safety concerns in their two terms with the Board, and the OSS will miss their steady guidance and input.
- The OSS awaits confirmation of Greg Busch's reappointment, and has received that confirmation for Christina Monaco.
- The board reviewed meeting notes from the April 2, 2024, meeting. A motion was made by Chris Wilderman to approve the minutes as written, was seconded by Jane Lineman, and unanimously passed.

## **CSSRC Activities - *CSSRC Staff* -**

- Ms. Ochoa reported that the Center is fully staffed.

## **Office of School Safety Update - *Christine Harms, OSS Director***

- Director Harms advised that recruitment is underway for the Program Assistant and Data Analyst positions. A conditional offer and acceptance are awaiting a background check on the latter. Interviews will take place this week to fill the vacancy of the Interagency Resource Specialist. A position for an Accountant to assist the Grants Unit and the OSS overall will be posted soon.
- Kati Garner provided a report on the Crisis Response Unit. She advised that highlights for the first year have been submitted.
  - The Unit was happy to welcome Leah Lefever and is now fully staffed.
  - The Unit has been working on making the NASP PREPaRE curriculum available to schools. Staff is conducting Psychological First Aid training as well, and working toward supporting schools in the event of a critical event. They are busy working with local and government agencies to create processes for crisis response. Partnerships are underway with the Disaster Behavioral Mental Health Group at CDPHE to ensure a better response across the state.

- Charli North provided an update for the Grants Unit. That Unit has also submitted a report summarizing its first year of work.
  - The Unit continues to manage 4 grant awards including ESSIR, SAFER, YVP, SSD. They are currently administering 4 segments of ESSIR, 2 Segments of SAFER, 1 Segment of YVP, and 3 Segments of SSD. We currently partner with ESSIR (1), YVP (13), SSD (2023-68, 2024-62, 2025-13) SAFER (2025-10, 2024-13) 180 awardees to administer grants that drive the mission of the OSS .
  - Staff look forward to having an accountant to support their work. DHSEM is managing that function currently. The Unit is in need of additional staff, and will seek additional funding through federal grant opportunities to hire additional staff.
- Special Projects
  - Ms. Harms updated the group on the Interagency School Safety Working Group, which was an outcome of a 2019 Audit. The Group completed its initial work, and the report was submitted to the legislature in January of 2024. One committee that was created as a part of that work, the Physical Safety and Security Subcommittee, filed recommendations that were submitted with the August EUpdate
  - The Colorado School Safety Initiative will continue, and is being facilitated by the Public Education Business Coalition and Confluence Policy and Strategy Group. No meetings have taken place yet.
  - The OSS is facilitating the Educator Safety Task Force, created in HB24-1320. Most of the appointments for the task force have been made.
    - The first meeting is scheduled for August 29th. The group will have four meetings by the end of the year, with the work to be completed by June of 2025. Committee meetings will conduct much of the work.
    - The task force will be examining verbal and physical threats and assaults on educators, and the response to those events. Modes of support, such as workers compensation awards, will be considered, as well as funding available to support impacted staff.
    - The task force has a heavy lift to analyze these concerns, and will report its findings back to the group.
    - Ms. Harms confirmed that any type of physical or verbal assault will be considered, not only criminal behavior. Educators are reporting that they don't feel safe in school. She welcomed any volunteers for the work. Chris Wilderman noted his worry that the actual numbers will be underreported because districts don't have a good way to collect the data. Ms. Harms agrees and advised that the creation of the task force was spearheaded by the CEA. The stories are very upsetting. Officer Jacobsen inquired about the origin of the data. Ms. Harms indicated that CDE has data from expulsion and disciplinary reports, as well as juvenile justice tracking by the DCJ.

## CSSRC Activities - *Margaret Ochoa, CSSRC*

- Updates on events since the summer message to the board
  - SRO Training: Melissa Rubeo summarized the training made available by funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Grant.
    - 33 SROs from Colorado (together with 12 from outside the state) convened in the Denver Metro for Advanced SRO training provided by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO). Another group met in Grand Junction. The trainer, Jim Larson, did a phenomenal job facilitating conversations and collaboration at both sessions. The training was well received.
    - Among many others, some topics covered included body cameras, legal resources, social media searches, physical safety and mental health.
    - Cary Lynch, Kati Garner, Kelly Donnelly and Amy Miglinas also participated.
  - Ms. Ochoa reviewed the OSS training opportunities for the new school year, including
    - I Love You Guys Foundation **Reunification Workshop** - September 24th and 25th in Monte Vista [Registration](#)
    - **Safe Schools Summit**, October 17th and 18th [Registration](#). This event will be totally virtual, and free to attend.
      - Four plenary speakers will present on the first day, to include restorative practices, managing high conflict, serving justice-involved youth, and nervous system regulation to prevent burnout in staff.
      - 30 workshops will be offered in six different Zoom rooms on the second day.
      - The event will be livestreamed and/or recorded.
    - Youth Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Symposium November 14th at the Lowry Conference Center. [Registration](#) is \$50. This event will be livestreamed.
    - Kati Garner reported that the first ever **Crisis Response Symposium**, will be held December 3rd. This event will be totally virtual and free of charge. [Registration](#) for the event is open. Four plenary sessions will address supporting families and communities after a mass casualty event, messaging following a death, bereavement, and trauma skills for teachers and staff in working with children following an event.
    - **January Speakers' Series** - TBD
    - **Student/Staff Summits**, Dates TBD, La Junta, Sterling and Durango
      - The Regional Training Consultants are working on making these Summits possible so we can be sure our school safety work is comprehensive. We want to be sure we are capturing safety concerns and strategies of the students we serve.
      - The governor has requested that the Center spread awareness and prevention messaging regarding fentanyl as

a Wildly Important Goal. We will accomplish this by partnering with Rise Above Colorado in this work.

- **School Safety Specialist Academy** - Save the Date for the week of June 2nd
- Please share these opportunities widely with your networks!
- **CSSRC Staff Updates**
  - Brad Stiles advised that there have been 16 CTAMP training events this calendar year, with about 304 trained. Two schools were trained on the online platform. Invitations have gone out for meetings for the School Based Professionals Networking groups for threat assessment professionals and for a more limited CTAMP protocol schools group. Each group will meet twice.
  - Jae Dee Wood provided further details on the School-Based Professionals Networking Groups. They will meet on Tuesdays from 2PM to 3PM. Professionals managing students with problematic sexual behaviors will meet three times throughout the school year.
    - Professionals interested in suicide prevention are also separated into two groups: those who utilize the CSSRC toolkit and soon to be released online platform, and a more general advisory group. Those groups will each meet twice, with Cary Lynch leading the discussion.
    - Jenny Mills will facilitate a newly-created Crisis Response Networking Group.
    - Please reach out to staff to join us!
  - Cary Lynch gave an update on professional development trainings scheduled for the fall season. Schools are being trained on threat assessment, the Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit and Suicide Prevention Best Practices, ASIST, QPR, Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, Bullying Prevention, Mandatory Reporting, PREPaRE, Psychological First Aid, and Youth and Teen Mental Health First Aid, among others.
  - Kelly Donnelly reported on the Center's ASIST work. This two-day, hands-on suicide prevention workshop is valuable for anyone. Participants do not need a professional mental health background. Soon most of the staff will be trained to offer it statewide. There is a \$50 materials fee, but the training is at no-cost to schools.
  - Amy Miglinas explained the vision for the Student Staff Summits in early 2025. The Regional Training Consultants have come up with multiple creative ideas to stay based in the vision of the project. Collecting student voice is a value we all share. They are working on dates and locations, then content will be tailored for each region.
  - Chelsey Lehmkuhl described CDE's regional trainings, *Enhancing School Safety: Integrating Prevention and School Climate Improvement Efforts*, which has been offered throughout the state this summer and fall. Each of the RTCs has or will attend the offerings, which highlight CDE's grant work in school safety, and the partnership between CDE and the OSS.
  - Mike Vagher updated the group on the Center's Online Tools.
    - The Colorado Threat Assessment and Management Protocol (CTAMP) is uploaded on an online platform. About 10 schools access and store all of their threat assessment records on the CTAMP online now. We expect that number to grow. The tool

- sends automatic messages so staff do not overlook tasks to manage students to prevent potential violence.
- The Suicide Risk Assessment Toolkit was loaded this year and is in beta testing. It is on the same interface as the CTAMP and has similar functions. We hope to have it up soon.
  - Margaret Ochoa reported on Kelly Addington's work with Handle with Care, a notification system between law enforcement and schools when students engage with law enforcement in their home lives. The program is funded from the BJA grant.
    - Kelly will attend law enforcement training on Handle with Care with Safe2Tell on August 14th and 21st. The Monument Police Department and El Paso County Sheriff's Office will be trained.
    - Kelly expects to start staff training with the Lewis Palmer School District (the second pilot site under the grant) in September. She is finalizing a startup toolkit for Lewis Palmer and working on a video to highlight local Colorado resources and concerns.

### **Member Updates -**

- **Suzy Morris** mentioned BHA's obligations under HB24-1406 related to mental health support for schools. The funding focuses on training teachers and admins/counselors. It prioritizes underserved schools and youth of color, grades 6th - 12th. There is a focus on efficacy and reducing burnout. BHA intends to strengthen mental health opportunities for youth using the MTSS model, including mindfulness techniques, resources for those at risk of suicide, consultation, and supporting administrative staff in coordinating care for families. The bill specifically calls out rurals to implement programming in 400 schools by 2027-2028. Suzy is working on a Statement of Work and RFP for a provider in communities.
- **Jane Lineman** advised that her office is onboarding new staff. CRS 24-1216 requires juvenile court liaisons to get students back into school within 10 days of release from detention, so that provision is keeping her staff busy!
- **Stacey Jenkins** and the S2T office are working on their annual report. It was their busiest year ever, with tips at 25% above last year. The report will be released before the end of the year. SB23-070 requires training meetings with SROs. They had a training in which 246 joined live, with 30 more joining after the fact to view the recording.

**Margaret Ochoa announced the next meeting on October 1, 2024 at 1:30 PM**  
The meeting concluded at 2:50 pm.