

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY
School Safety Advisory Board Meeting

March 4, 2024

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Welcome of the Advisory Board

MARY GABLE: Welcome to the Subcabinet meeting and it's 10 a.m. and so I want to call meeting to order. We are live-streaming... confirmation?

DR. TIA MCKINNON: It is 10:00 a.m., therefore I'm going to call this meeting to order. Please confirm the meeting is being live streamed and recorded for the public audience.

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AARON CHIUSANO: We are live streaming and recording.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Thank you. We will begin with our roll call of board members. Oops. I am Dr Tia McKinnon. Katherine Klausmeier? Eric Ebersole? Karin Bailey? Dr. Kellie Anderson?

DR. KELLIE ANDERSON: Here.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Pamela Gaddy?

PAMELA GADDY: Here.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: James Bell?

JAMES BELL: Good Morning everybody. Here.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Natalie Miller, our designee from the Department of Human Services? I know you said something Miss Miller but I didn't hear you can you do it again? Sheriff Matthew Crisafulli? Chief Paul Kifer? Leigh Weihs? Laurel Moody?

LAUREL MOODY: Morning.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Michael Brown? David Engel?

GREG PHILLIPS: Good morning, this is Greg Phillips sitting in on Director Engel's behalf this morning.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Thank you. Claire Cabral? Dr. Sharon Hoover?

DR. SHARON HOOVER: Good morning.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Good morning. Megan Berger?

MEGAN BBERGER: Good Morning.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Thomas Alban?

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THOMAS ALBAN: Good morning everyone.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Lee-Nadine Oppenheim?

LEE-NADINE OPPENHEIM: Good morning everybody.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Good morning. Joseph Cormier?

JOSEPH CORMIER: Good morning.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Good morning. Sergeant Kevin Britt?

SERGEANT KEVIN BRITT: Morning.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Good morning. I did see Eric Ebersole come in.

ERIC EBERSOLE: I am. Thank you.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: You're welcome is there anyone else that I did not call or came in after I called your name. Welcome Miss Johnson. Please confirm that we have a quorum.

JEANEEN JOHNSON: Good morning, yes we do have a quorum.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Awesome. Thank you. The last meeting of the Advisory Board was in December the December meeting was recorded and that recording is available on the MCSS website. As such, there are no meeting minutes to be approved. We're going to take a look at today's agenda. Here we go. Are there any additions to today's agenda? With none being heard, is there a motion to approve the agenda?

JOSEPH CORMIER: Motion to approve.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Do we have a second?

SHARON HOOVER: This is Sharon, this is a second.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Thank you. Is there any discussion? All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: All opposed say nay. Abstentions? Excellent, the motion passes and the agenda for today is approved. With that business out of the way, let's move to our first item on the agenda it's for Kate to share with us executive updates. Kate?

MCSS Executive Updates

KATE BRYAN: Good morning everyone! It's nice to see you all, though be it virtually. I was hoping we'd be able to be in person for this meeting but I'm looking forward to our next get together. So, before I get into the Staffing updates and changes, you're going to hear a lot from the team about some of the progress we've made a lot of the activities that have

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been going on. It's been an incredibly busy legislative session, so you're going to hear about that. You're going to hear from Jesika about this Summer's conference. So, we're very excited about that. We've already kicked off planning for the next Summer's Conference. You're going to hear about some work some additional and new work we're doing related to behavioral threat assessment teams, so that's going to be coming up. But I am incredibly pleased to welcome three additions to the team. So, first off we have Jeff Smith. Jeff joined us from Talbot County Public Schools. He is a new Regional staff member—he's got Kent, Caroline, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties. He is also supporting Jim Hott on the School Resource Officer Training. So we're really excited to have Jeff on the team. Next is Ja Coates. Ja joined us in early January as a new Communications and Instructional Specialist. So very excited to have Ja on the team and then finally Reem Saleh has joined us. Reem is an intern actually with the University of Maryland College Park. Reem is going to be supporting Jeyan Jebaraj on our data side of the house doing some interesting and hopefully informative work related to some of the data that we collect and that we share. So we're really excited to have all three of them join the team. We are now again fully staffed, so that's also very exciting. So we've had some vacancies for a little while but those are all now filled so we're really excited for the good work that's coming.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Thank you Kate. I understand the joy of being fully staffed as the Charles County Special Education leadership was fully staffed as of January 8th so we're excited and it's a testament to the valuable work happening at MCSS that you attract such high quality members to the team and students want to come and learn how to do their work with us. Are there any questions from the board members for Miss Bryan? Okay we're going to move on to agenda item number two. The next...oh I'm sorry.

KATE BRYAN: No go ahead.

PREPARE 2024 – *Safer Schools Together*

DR. TIA MCKINNON: The next item on the agenda is information about the July 2024 School Safety Conference. I understand that planning is moving along quickly for this Summer's event. And I did see a registration notice in my email which I passed on to the staff administrative staff here in Charles County.

KATE BRYAN: Excellent, and we appreciate that, we really do. So the Summer Conference. We've held it every year since even before my arrival all the way back to 2017. Actually, I think we even had one in 2016. Every year we make changes to the conference, to expand knowledge, to bring in additional subject matter experts and speakers, and Jesika will talk a little bit about this year's conference. But the biggest change that we made this past year is rebranding the conference. So instead of saying the Maryland Center for School Safety Annual Summer Conference, we have rebranded it to PREPARE. So every year you will get notices about the PREPARE conference coming to Maryland again in the summer. The branding will remain the same every year. What will change every year is our theme for the conference. So I'm going to pass it over to Jesika who's going to talk about this year's theme, talk about some of the specifics for the conference. And we really do hope that many of you will be able to join us this summer. So I'll will pass it over to Jesika.

JESIKA MCNEIL: Thank you Kate. Good morning everyone. As Kate mentioned, we've rebranded the conference to PREPARE. Which you will see and hopefully have seen some

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of our notifications coming out. This year's theme is Safer Schools Together, which we are excited about as the conference has grown every year. We've had over 47 speakers come to us that wanted to speak at our conference that are really excited about the topic and what we're doing. So we have identified our speakers and are working now to finalize that list which will be coming out in the coming weeks. To date, we've had over 180 registrations already and will continue through June of this year. One great thing that will be coming back again this year will be the Art Showcase. So we did introduce the art showcase last year for Maryland students to be able to interpret school safety. This year's theme for the art showcase is Safe Spaces. As you'll see the flyers, you'll see information coming out on in regards to the Showcase. We hope to have hundreds of students participate and enter and give us their interpretation of safe spaces. So we hope to see you all at the conference this year we'll have leading webinars as well as the night of the 16th we'll be doing a BTA Workshop and kicking off the conference Full Steam for the full days on the 17th and 18th. So the conference will be at Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City again on July 16th, 17th, and 18th. The 16th will be early registration and the BTA Workshop. The 17th and 18th are full day conference and we will have lead in webinars in the weeks prior to that. Are there any questions for me?

JOSEPH CORMIER: Hi, good morning.

JESIKA MCNEIL: Good morning.

JOSEPH CORMIER: Joe Cormier, parent of a special education student. For this art showcase, how is that flyer getting distributed to the school systems?

JESIKA MCNEIL: So we are sending it to all the Superintendents as well as the superintendent newsletters as well as to all of the art teachers for the state. We are also just working with MSDE to get that distributed to all the jurisdictions in addition to that we take on our own efforts and send it out to like your local YMCA Boys and Girls Clubs, some of the private schools, arch daises and things that that we have contacts for. So we try to blanket it as much as possible and we do ask staff, board members, etc. to share it as well to get the word out to our local students.

JOSEPH CORMIER: Thank you. I know in Calbert County where I'm from, we're very effective with our Student Government organizations and our student member of the Board of Education. So I hope that they're being clever to get that word out because they are very active with the community.

JESIKA MCNEIL: Yes we will do that as well. I will make sure that that happens as well. All right thank you.

LAUREL MOODY: So, sorry just yeah I just wondered is there a way that we could get the flyer could you send that to us in a PDF so I know. I'm the school health liaison and my school and I could get that out through our school health supervisors across the state and they could share that with students as well.

JESIKA MCNEIL: That'll be wonderful. Yes, I will send the flyer out to all the board members following the meeting.

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DR. TIA MCKINNON: Perfect, thank you Dr Hoover.

DR. SHARON HOOVER: Yeah, hi everybody I just wanted to mention and you may already be doing this but you may be aware that through the blueprint there's the Consortium for Coordinated Community Support Partnerships to expand School Behavioral Health across the state and 129 provider organizations were just awarded support to expand School Behavioral Health. So they might be a natural audience for this. I just wonder about working with the Community Health Resource Commission (CHRC) of the Department of Health to get the word out through that mechanism.

JESIKA MCNEIL: Thank you. Yes, I will look into that as well I not looked at that avenue as of yet.

DR. SHARON HOOVER: I'm happy to help facilitate that communication if helpful.

JESIKA MCNEIL: Thank you Dr. Hoover.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Are there any other questions about our prepare conference and art Showcase? Okay thank you for those updates. I encourage everyone to place the dates on your calendar and register to attend. We're moving on to agenda item number three. It's an update on bills related to school safety. It's been a busy legislative session to date—that's what I've heard here in Charles County.

2024 Legislative Session

KIMBERLY BUCKHEIT: It has been very busy and we actually are fortunate to have Delegate Ebersole join us today he stepped away from his many many duties and we really appreciate your time to be here. So it has been so what so what we do at MCSS is really watch all of the bills that are being dropped over the course of the session and then look to kind of curate a list of those that either have a direct impact at MCSS where we are actually named in a bill and or those that are going to have a direct impact on our School stakeholders, our school officials. So kind of just created a summary of some of these as well as at this point in time it becomes interesting in the session because you can really kind of see what's moving and what's not moving potentially. Crossover Day is coming up really soon as Delegate Ebersole knows. So, it is pretty frantic in Annapolis this week and next wee. So the first one, House Bill 416 and it was cross-filed this year in the Senate Bill 432. It was filed last year we talked about this last year the active shooter safety drills and trainings bill. So this looks like it will definitely pass this year as we've got cross file already happening for both of them. And so embedded in this drill are a number of items. It requires us to collaborate with a research entity to study the effectiveness and impact of active shooter safety drills and trainings on students, staff, parents, as well as to develop some Statewide recommendations based upon that data. So this will require MCSS to reach out to different partners for us to try to either join if there are some national studies that are already happening related to this for us to try to engage with that and/or to potentially begin a brand new study that I would assume some other states would be very interested in as well. And so, to really kind of inform the impact of these activities on students, it will require us to collect and analyze some data from our locals. And again, specifically looking at that broad variety of stakeholders right? So students staff and parents that are impacted by these drills. Also within the bill, it bans the use of sensory simulations in any drills. So it bans the use of

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any replication of gunfire, smoke, anything that replicates what an active assailant event may look like for use in any drills with school staff. It does not mean that law enforcement agencies can drill in the evening or on the weekends when staff and students aren't present for them to do their own preparedness training right—separate from what happens from students and staff during the school day. So this bill will require us also to engage closely with MSDE which we were already kind of anticipating to look at making some updates to the COMAR related to drills. And then the other element in this bill is the gun safety storage. So MCSS must work, it's directed in the bill, with our state police to develop a sort of easy-to use pamphlet, brochure, or flyer that we are distributing to all of our LEAs for them to distribute at least annually to all parents on safe gun storage laws. So there's a number of elements that we've been watching and are prepared to be able to move forward with. Anything I missed on that one Kate or Jeanene in the drill bill as I refer to it?

KATE BRYAN: No, I think you captured everything. Okay, and then the next one that has actually—it passed unanimously also is... it passed the house unanimously. So House Bill 472, the School Mapping Bill. So School Mapping Data Program. This would actually establish... so it was cross-filed... the Senate hearing actually occurred last week it establishes this School Mapping Data Program. So, a number of things within the bill. It indicates that locals can apply to use their School Safety Fund to partner, to collaborate, to procure an agency to engage in digital maps of the school. So, it's creating a digital map of the school footprint where classrooms are classroom numbers, hallway names, the exterior perimeter, right, of a building that it's a digital map that is of available for First Responders in the event of an emergency. What within that bill, it defines some standardization of the mapping procedure, which Jeyan has been a great source of help for us to understand these elements. The bill does not require. So that's one of the important things for us to make sure our locals know that the language in the bill is “may.” So that if a local School System is using digital maps, what they would be required to do is align with the standardization that is defined but it does not require that they have, or are creating digital maps, at least at this point in time. So this was a bill that really kind of led to some collaboration between MSDE and the IAC on making sure that we actually were able to get some kind of amendments and rewrites to this bill so it flowed a little more smoothly in terms of money. But definitely working with the IAC for us to collaborate more with the IAC related to the standardization elements on that. Any other on that one Kate too?

KATE BRYAN: No, not for me. I mean that that was the big sort of amendment changes were the flow of the funding so it would be a grant program for us and then the IAC setting the standards in coordination with us because there are some other standards that IAC actually cares about related to maintenance and construction, related to mapping. So just trying to figure out when those standards get developed. If we can comprehensively address all of those areas.

KIMBERLY BUCKHEIT: Yeah. Delegate Ebersole?

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Right, both have questions.

DELEGATE EVERSOLE: Thanks. I just wanted to point out that one of the questions that got asked was about the fundings and the grants that would this impact the \$10 million that's set aside for SROs. And the answer is no. I believe unless someone at want contradict me that this is not taken away from those funds, that it would be current grants. And I want to also thank you all for working so hard with us on figuring out who was responsible for what

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who was funding what. I think we got in the end and we appreciated, we deeply appreciated your interaction with us on that so thanks.

KIMBERLY BUCKHEIT: You're welcome yeah we appreciate being able to collaborate on it. Yeah. Mr. Cormier?

JOSEPH CORMIER: Hi, good morning again. Joe Cormier, parent of a special education student. I heard you talk a lot about the interior mapping of the building but is this also going to include the playgrounds and any athletic areas in the footprint? I know with our elementary schools, we have half-size fences, we have 8-foot fences, in some schools are you know in a community, some schools are in a tree line. So are we just going to give the the First Responders all the information they need to be able to come at these you know various school sites with all the information they need to be successful?

KIMBERLY BUCKHEIT: Yeah, my understanding from just kind of doing some basic research on this. And again, Jeyan's been a great resource. It's the entire campus, right the entire footprint of the school. So the interior building as well as the exterior campus area surrounding that.

DELEGTATE EBERSOLE: Yeah there's no there's nothing in a law that requires that states what really counties are going to do. There is there is a company that has come to us and said they're very good at this. There are other companies, so it's not Single Source. And I'm sure the counties when they get their Grant will be able to make that decision if they want to go with, I assume they would with a with a larger mapping. The main concern was that when law enforcement people get inside and building in any emergency situation, they really need a clear idea of where they're going and what rooms are used for. And so that was mostly it was focused on interior but I would asse exterior as well.

JOSEPH CORMIER: I know with the pandemic, we did have a large push to have outdoor classroom spaces and you know a lot of walking trails and I know my cross country kid goes way out into the wood line. So, I just want to make sure that we're you know comprehensive with the entire footprint of where kids could be during an emergency.

KIM: Yes, thank you for that. Go ahead Jeyan.

JEYAN JEBARAJ: Yeah from my understanding, one second. From my understanding, what it seems like is three levels of mapping. One being the interior mapping, like you said you know for response and any of the asset management. And one being the campus mapping of what's in the campus, every building, and the footprint of the whole campus. And then one for strategic response of emergency personnel, which would be all the fire stations the police and everything surrounding that campus, how they get to that kind of. So, all three will be addressed from the using those mapping needs yeah.

KIMBERLY BUCKHEIT: Thank you everybody. So the next bill, Senate Bill 756 remains in committee still at this time. This is, so titled the School Safety Student Well-Being Policies and Funding. So I say this is still in committee, we actually the hearing for that was last week. Kate did a great job speaking to that, providing both oral and written testimony for this. This one does a couple of things. So this particular bill, Senator Hester had engaged with us before the session began and did some interaction with our local stakeholders, our

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school safety coordinators to really talk to them about what they need right? What are some gaps as they kind of look at funding and look at the ability to use that funding. So within this particular bill, it actually creates some flexibility in the use of the SRO Grant. So it would actually increase the total from 10 to 20 million dollars. But then also adds a number of categories that the that would be allowable for the use of that money which was something that our locals indicated would be very helpful for them. Also inside of that bill, requires us to again work closely with the IAC and MSDE to review and promulgate guidelines related to the physical security in schools. And then as part of that so it's sort of embedded is based upon the outcome of those assessments, that people can use that money to identify gaps needs vulnerabilities and can use that money to address those vulnerabilities as well. So yeah, a couple of things that are allowable that this bill potentially addresses for us. And again, I'll ask Kate if she wants to add anything else to that.

KATE BRYAN: No, I don't think so there was a question in the chat from Lee related to specifically the funding bills. So I answered in the chat, but I'll answer publicly as well. So Lee, none of the bills related to grant funding are tied to private or non-public special education facilities. They're all specific to the safe schools fund, which are public school funds. However the budget bill that will be passed, our budget does include funding again for the hate crimes Grant. So private and non-public special education facilities are eligible for those School Safety and Security related grants under the hate crimes Grant.

LEE: But the Non-Public Special Education Security Grant will not come back?

KATE: That I do not believe there is funding in that for Fiscal Year 24. At least not in the budget, but again the budget bill has to pass just like everything else so we won't know officially until April.

KIM: Thanks Lee. All right. Senate Bill 127. So this one has remained in committee and the hearing for this did happen a few weeks ago. This is related to firearm detection platforms. It directed MCSS to actually assess all of those available firearm detection platforms that are out there. And to actually create some recommendations related to effectiveness and what exactly the platform does. And how it works for us to be able to inform our locals related to the variety of these types of tools. It authorized use of the Safe Schools Fund for the firearm detection platforms. And just to remind everybody, the Safe Schools Fund is that very small piece of grant funding. So that's the \$600,000 that gets distributed across the 24. So roughly only \$25,000 for each LEA, which would be somewhat difficult for them to acquire some of these with that dollar amount.

Closing

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Hearing nothing else, I want to thank you for your engagement and using this opportunity to coordinate efforts across our organizations supporting part of what we do here at the School Safety Advisory board. We're now going to prepare to adjourn our meeting. The next Advisory board meeting will be on June 3rd, 2024. It's a longer stretch of time because of the spring break holidays and end of the year school events. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Miss Brian or Miss Buckheit with any questions or items in need of attention prior to the June meeting. Do I have a motion to adjourn?

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JOSPEH CORMIER: Motion to adjourn.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Do we have a second? Thank you Mr. Cormier.

LAUREL MOODY: Second.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: Thank you. All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

DR. TIA MCKINNON: All opposed? Any abstentions? Again, thank you so much for your engagement today and I can still plan on seeing each other on June 3rd. Thank you, enjoy your week everyone.