

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

August 9, 2021

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1. Welcome of the Subcabinet – Chair, Mr. Mohammed Choudhury

- a. Declaration of quorum**
- b. Additions to the Agenda**

Craig Meister: Oh, it's...it's working now.

Jeyan Jebaraj: Jesika, we are live. I can confirm from you too.

Mohammed Choudhury: Good morning. Welcome to today's School Safety Subcabinet Meeting. It is 10:00 a.m. Let's call this meeting to order. Please confirm, we are now live streaming.

Jesika McNeil: Yes, we are live.

Mohammed Choudhury: Dawn, please confirm, we have a forum.

Dawn Leudtke: We do have a forum.

Mohammed Choudhury: All right. The last meeting of the Subcabinet Meeting was in May. The May meeting was recorded and that recording is available on the MCSS website. There are no May meeting minutes to be approved. Does anyone have any addition to today's agenda? I'll turn it over to Kate to take us through the updates from MCSS.

2. Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS)

a. Executive Update – Kate Hession

Kate Hession: Great. Thank you, Mr. Choudhury. First of all, welcome to your first Subcabinet meeting. Thank you for being here. We're excited to have you. So, the start of the fiscal year, July 1st, the Center started our new fiscal year, we've done quite a few things. Jim is going to talk to you about our summer conference we held in July. Gifty is obviously going to go through the Subcabinet applications for some of our grants today. We also started our data collection for this fiscal year, so we've begun that. We're collecting data on the number of school resource officers in each of the individual schools, public schools in the state.

We're collecting data on how the emergency plans worked for our school systems last year and then, finally, we're working on our SRO training, our SRO and school security employee training, so we have more of that coming up over the next couple

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of months, so we're excited about that. So, those are the major updates from the Center unless there's any questions, specifically about any of our initiatives. All right. I'm going to turn it over to Jim, and Jim is going to provide you an update and overview of our 2021 School Safety Conference that we just had.

b. Annual School Safety Conference – James Hott

James Hott: Good morning, everyone. If you don't mind, I'm going to stand. I'm driving for a couple hours this morning, so I'd like to stand. My name's James Hott. I've been with the Center for about two and a half years. Prior to that, I was an SRO and a DARE officer as a police officer in Cumberland, in Allegany County. So, I'm also the Conference Chair and this is the third year of the conference, and they have changed majorly over the three years that we've been here.

The first one was a two-day in-person conference, then last year to four one-hour sessions, to this year four full days of all virtual conferences. So, my partner here, Jesika, who we could not have done the conference without, is going to help me with my slides. We did have a four-day virtual conference, 25 sessions over those four days, they were very well attended.

We had three partner messages. Just before lunch on those days, it was Handle With Care, which is a Maryland product. Emergency plans from the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and we had one from ransomware from the Maryland Coordinator and Analysis Center. We also had an opening message from Governor Hogan, and thank you superintendent. A closing message from superintendent Choudhury. So, I know they really enjoyed that. We also opened with a video of the Carroll County High School Students Choral Collaboration. And basically, it was students from, I think, three or four different high schools, and they were all in little squares, and they all sang together.

It was a very good opening for the conference. So, our goal this year was Resilience Through Change. We wanted to help our attendees discover that resilience through change. We had several speakers that were very, very good and they provided content, their experiences, best practices, and they actually provided some takeaways for our attendees. We've had numerous people and comments asking us for the presentations, asking us for the takeaways that the speakers gave to us, so we feel it was a very good success.

One thing that we approached this year was we had continuing education, which was a first for us. The MSDE provided one hour of CPD credit for educators. MPCTC, which is the Maryland Public Corrections Training Center, provided 14 hours of in-service training for all police officers that attended.

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05:00

And then we had the National Association of Social Workers who provided up to 20 hours, which was a total amount of hours we had for our conference. And we did have several numerous people take advantage of this.

So, to get into the conference itself, we had five different keynote speakers very, very good speakers, Jessie Weinberger was our first speaker. She talked about device time and mental health on our youth. She had the whole afternoon on the first day that we had. She was very, very knowledgeable. We had Lynn Rimer, who is a chemist from Colorado, and she spoke about trends in teen substance abuse, and probably one of our most popular sessions, we've had numerous people ask us to have her back.

We had Judge Robert Long, also from Colorado, who is an expert in child sex trafficking and we had Mark Yarborough who spoke to us. He's a retired states attorney from Texas, spoke to us about BURNOUT. And also, a highly sought-after speaker Retro Bill, who is, you can't see his picture here, but he is a speaker that speaks about how to be a HERO to kids and how to teach; teach how to connect with kids in a much better way, so there were good keynote speakers that we had, okay?

We also had general sessions and in those general sessions, our first one was Missy Jenkins Smith. She's a school shooting survivor from 1997, in Paducah, Kentucky. And she talked about resilience, and it was perfect. She led the conference off. We also had Laura Clary of the Greater Baltimore Medical Center, and she talked about child abuse during the pandemic and sexual abuse during the pandemic. We also were privileged to have two representatives from Baltimore County, Jim Corns and Barbara Burnoff and they talked about the ransomware attack that they had during the pandemic.

And it was also a very well attended session. Jeneen Beck from Frederick County Public Schools talked about restorative practices, as well as Maryann Brittingham, also talked about restorative practices and we had our legal updates. Unfortunately, our representative, Dawn, was unable to present, but I believe it was her supervisor, Elliot Showen, stepped in and presented for us on our legal updates on our general session. After that, we had some breakout sessions. We had numerous breakout sessions, and our paths were for the school safety coordinators and administrators of schools.

One for school resource officers, and one for our mental health coordinators. So, our first one was Katie Greer, on internet safety. And we had two more people from the Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Evelyn Kim and Rosalyn Berkowitz. Evelyn talked about forensic evaluation of evidence for police officers in schools for SROs and Roz talked about non-fatal strangulation, and that was headed towards the

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mental health group, because it helps to see the signs on students of this non-fatal strangulation, how in depth it is and how prevalent it is that we don't really know about.

One of our most well attended ones was Jen Lynn, and she focused on autism and IDD and it was a great presentation. In fact, she presented our first conference as well. The next one, Robert Shusko is from Frederick County Community College and she talked about creating a school safety culture. And our last one was Tammi Ginsburg of the American Federation of Suicide Prevention and she gave a presentation on suicide prevention. We still had more breakouts. Mr. Mike Meiser from Charles County, talked about student ID badges.

Tamika Perkins and Corporal Michelle LeVere of the Arundel County Police Department spoke on two different breakout sessions regarding restorative practices programs that they put into their program. We had Kristen Kenman, she is from the Archdiocese of Baltimore and she spoke about how the non-public schools were able to re-open during COVID safely. We also had, in one of our speakers is here, Claire Cabral, Kevin Boham, and Henry Meiser of the Student Focus Group and they talked about school safety through the eyes of students. It was another well attended and much requested session that we had. And our last session was Gangs in Schools and it was conducted by an SRO in Hagerstown, Maryland, Tom Kelly.

So, our top five sessions, the first one was Maryann Brittingham. And this was, How to Reduce The Power Struggles During Restorative Circles and it was a very well attended session, the most well attended. I actually got to argue with her as a child over the feed, so it was very fun, but it was very informative.

10:00

The next two tied, and it was Lynn Rimer and Judge Long about our substance abuse and human trafficking. Our third one was our school safety, our school shooting survivor, Missy Jenkins Smith, and then Child Sexual Abuse with Laura Clary and then one of our sessions with Jesse Weinberger, Device Time. Our breakout sessions also were very well attended. Our top one was about internet safety and you can see that 80 people attended that breakout session.

And that was the top one for mental health for our school safety coordinators and our admins. It was responding to gangs in schools, that was their top one. And for our SROs, the top one was How to Work with Autistic and IDD students, which is very encouraging to me because that's one of my favorite topics in helping to deal with autistic students, okay? So, we went over our evaluations and our evaluations, the average conference rating was an 8.6, which we felt very good about. The virtual conference experience was an 8.0 and our virtual platform navigation was a 7.4. We also asked two questions, were there knowledge and skills

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improved by the event and the box you can't see it, but it was overwhelmingly yes, 105 to 7 that their knowledge and skills were improved. And then did it meet learning objectives and overwhelmingly, yes, 107 to 5. Okay.

So, to be completely honest, we wanted to put in there what people least liked and what they most liked about the conference. So, we kind of figured this was going to come up. The technical difficulties during a conference like this, especially a four-day conference all online. That was the biggest topic about what they liked least about the event. They didn't like the fact that it wasn't as interactive as it would be in person. That the sessions weren't recorded to look back later. We made a conscious decision not to do that. There were several speakers that requested not to be recorded, but we thought to ourselves in the planning, if this was an in-person conference, we would not be recording, so we decided not to record them at this time.

Another one just sitting at this computer screen, because I was the one that wanted the longer conference because we had so many good speakers, so we had them sitting at their desk, seven hours a day for four days. It is very tough to look at a screen that long. And then we didn't get the session, the agenda out as fast as some people would've liked, so that's something we're going to look for next year. The things they liked most about it was and I put this at the top, not to give us kudos, but because it was there several times, the professionalism of the staff. The variety of topics and presenters was one of the big topics about what they liked the most. You can see there they were hilarious the range of topics, variety of speakers. Many liked it was a virtual venue. And they said the topics were very relevant to the student needs and they really appreciated Henry's program hearing from the student's perspectives, okay?

So, more statistics, the average attendance of each person was they attended 10 sessions. There were 40 people that attended from beginning to end everything that we provided. We had a total registration of 554 and we had 354 unique check-ins, which means at least 354 people checked in during that time. Later on, we found out there were some that were unable to check-in because they were at a School Resource Officer Conference in Florida, or they had things come up, they had vacations, they had things come up, they weren't able to do it. We did have, which was encouraging 66 out-of-state registrations and I want to thank Sandy Caldwell back here because that was promoted through our tip line national call, 14 were registered from Georgia, seven from Oklahoma, and six from Colorado, okay?

And the last slide I have is our Partner Booths. We worked with our Partners across the state DARE, Maryland Department of Human Services, the Interdisciplinary Act, Dawn, you are going to have to help me with this title.

Dawn Luedtke: Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Worker.

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James Hott: That's what I'm going to say, yes. Handle With Care, the tip line, and also MEMA. So, that kind of sums up the conference that we had. Is there any questions I can answer for you? Yes, sir.

Robert Gorrell: Yes sir. It seems like with that kind of a response in people that are interested, that even if it's a live conference, why wouldn't you want to record it so that people could refer back to it and share, I heard this and pointed to certain segments of it, so that they can refer to each other and see exactly what it is. It seems like it would be more valuable.

15:00

James Hott: Well, there were several speakers that it was in their contract they are our national speakers and that's their livelihood, so they requested us not to record it and it is something we will be looking at in the future to see if maybe it would be better to record things because I'll be honest, some of our staff missed some of the things they really wanted to see because we were in other rooms and breakout rooms, so it's something we're going to look at in the future. I'm hoping that it's in person next year or at least a hybrid option so that we could have a little bit of interaction as well with our audience. Any other questions? Okay, Thank you.

Mohammed Choudhury: We would like to review all of the applications, and Gifty will walk through each one of them and after each one, we have a discussion and make follow up comments.

c. FY2022 Safe School Fund Grants – Gifty Quarshie

- i. Allegany County**
- ii. Anne Arundel County**
- iii. Carroll County**
- iv. Cecil County**
- v. Charles County**
- vi. Frederick County**
- vii. Montgomery County**

Gifty Quarshie: Thank you. Good morning, everyone. So, fiscal year 2022 just like we did with fiscal year 2021, we have \$600,000 in our safe school fund budget to give out to all 24 jurisdictions. Due to the smaller budget amount compared to prior years, if you remember fiscal year 2020, we had 10 million, fiscal year 2019 we had 10 million, so that changed when we started administering the School Resource Grant Officer Program at fiscal year 2020. So, the budget for this year, again, is \$600,000 and we have received seven grant applications from seven jurisdictions out of the 24.

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The allocation amount for fiscal year 2022, like we did in 2021 is \$25,000 per school. And so, with that, I will start with the very first school system, Allegany County Public School. So, they are requesting for the full amount of \$25,000 to cover overtime wages for their safety and security officers. Now, these officers assist with different kinds of calls. Many of the ones that they've actually received are for, I'm sorry, so there's a difference between this grant and the SRO grant that we give out, but for the Allegany County Public School Systems, they have their own staff members who assist schools with school-based incidents inside and outside of their buildings and the request again is for \$25,000.

Mohammed Choudhury: Any questions on this grant?

Robert Gorrell: Mr. Chair. How? And Dawn please step in to correct me. Do we have some sort of a minimum requirement of how those dollars are spent? This is a reimbursement, right?

Gifty Quarshie: This is reimbursement, yes.

Robert Gorrell: Right. And so do we have to look to see that they're not, I don't mean to say that they are, but that somebody's working extra time just because they know a reimbursement is coming or were there real incidents that required them to be working additional hours.

Gifty Quarshie: Thank you for the question. So yes, there are real incidents. We did get back with Allegany County Public School Systems and the last school year, even with school being open for less than half of the school year, they had about 40 to 50 different incidents that they had to respond to. Aside from the incidents, they also do home visits and so these safety and security officers do a lot of the response outside of normal school periods and also during weekends. And it's not for the sake of there being a guaranteed funding. These are actual requests based on different things that happened during the school year.

Dawn Luedtke: And I think what you're asking is if this is all prospective, so these are this is not to retroactively fund for things that already happened. This would allocate the 25,000 to the school system. They would then have to submit for the overtime and submit the documentation to MCSS to get the reimbursement to spend down the 25,000 if awarded.

Robert Gorell: So, it's not a reimbursement.

Dawn Luedtke: No.

Robert Gorell: Okay.

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Dawn Luedtke: It's a reimbursement in the sense – yes.

Gifty Quarshie: Yes.

Dawn Luedtke: Yes.

Robert Gorrell: Thank you. Thank you.

Mohammed Choudhury: Thank you. Any other questions? Would someone like to make a motion to approve this grant? Yes. Yes. So moved. Aye. Second I'll second. All in favor. All oppose. See no one abstaining. Let's move on with the next one.

20:00

Gifty Quarshie: Thank you. Okay, I do a better job with this one. So, this is Anne Arundel County. They are requesting \$24,938 to purchase about 20 cameras for Broadneck Elementary School. Now, this is part of their project to revamp their camera security technology in your schools and this was identified during their 2019 School Safety Assessment evaluation, so for this particular year, they are requesting to use the funding in just one of the elementary schools to purchase the cameras, so with the cameras and the installation cost, the total request again is approximately \$24,938.

Mohammed Choudhury: Questions on this grant? Do I have a motion to approve?

Maria Rodowski-Stanco: Can we ask any questions? Can I ask a question? Is this kind of a system, you've mentioned about a 2019 school assessment. I am assuming but we are getting down to an elementary school that we've taken care of the higher levels of schooling, the older ages that I would assume would have more risk and need for cameras.

Gifty Quarshie: So, in the application, they did not state any reason in terms of why they would prefer this elementary school, but in terms of what we have in our notice of funding availability announcement, we always want to encourage the schools to put their request in where they have the most need, so the assumption is that this is where they have the most need.

Mohammed Choudhury: Any other questions or discussion before you ask any questions? Do I have a motion to approve. Sure, I'll approve. All in favor.

Group: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All oppose. See none. Moving on.

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Gifty Quarshie: So, moving on the next request is from Carroll County Public School Systems. They are requesting \$25,000 and this funding is actually going to be used for different projects. If you look on your overview sheet, the first request is to print standard response protocol posters about 3000 copies of them for all of your schools. They're also looking to print posters for the Safe Schools Maryland Reporting System. We affectionately follow the tip line and so these posters will be again, available in most of your school buildings. They are requesting to print 225 copies.

They will also be purchasing Stop the Bleed Kits. They're also interested in purchasing dorm numbering for their external doors, but on the inside, so they did purchase these door numberings in prior years, but one of the observations they've made from their Emergency Management Partners is that it would be important for them to have the same door numberings on the inside of the doors, so it's consistent. And then the final request is to train four school nurses and six school nurses in CPR train the trainer courses, and also purchase some AED training kits. And again, this is for the total allocation amount of \$25,000.

Mohammed Choudhury: Discussion.

Carol Beatty: Just a question. It has to do with the inside labeling, but probably it's more important on the outside. Do you know if braille is included?

Gifty Quarshie: That's an excellent question. We do not, but we can definitely follow up on this.

Carol Beatty: Probably hear from the department that is printing out on the outside. For navigation purposes, then it should be braille. Obviously on the inside as well it may be a good idea for the students.

Mohammed Choudhury: Any other questions? Motion to approve? There is a motion to approve. Second. Second. All in favor.

Group: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All opposed. Moving onto the next request.

Gifty Quarshie: Yes, sir. So, the next request is from Cecil County. They are requesting the \$25,000 allocation to purchase 46 units of radio to facilitate more effective and widespread communication assets in their buildings. They are also requesting to purchase 11 chromebooks and 13 iPads for their student support center.

25:00

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The student support center helps student with any behavioral issues. It allows them the opportunity to come in.

There are student support center technicians who are available to help the students. Now, the laptops are specifically for the support technicians. They do have to enter data based on the visit when the students do come in. The iPads are for the students. It actually has pre downloaded apps, different apps that are able to help them in any of those common situations when they are required and so the entire request again is for the \$25,000 allocated amount.

Mohammed Choudhury: Say a little more about the student support center. Is it a building to the school or does it standalone?

Gifty Quarshie: No, so it is part of the school system. Our understanding is they have about 13 of them and they provide multi-tiered system supports, so it has to do with neuroscience, child development theories, restorative practices, and so whenever there are any issues being experienced by the students, they're normally sent to the student support center just to provide them the opportunity to calm down, but it is part of their school system.

Mohammed Choudhury: Motion to approve. I'll make a motion to approve. Second. Second. Thank you. All in favor. All opposed. See none. Moving on.

Gifty Quarshie: So, the next request is from Charles County Public Schools. This is a repeat request from last year. So, Charles County Public Schools will purchase the Bark monitoring platform. They used this last year to pay for a contractor to perform in live or in person monitoring and this helps them, you know, just ensure that there is no inappropriate content on their learning management platform as well as their office 365 platforms. The request is for \$25,000 and the rate is at a dollar per student.

Mohammed Choudhury: Question.

Robert Gorrell: Question is they have to have the software already in place? I mean, so they would fund this out of their educational budget, so I understand is this allowed, this particular use, is it allowed?

Gifty Quarshie: So, the use itself in terms of being able to monitor, the learning platform? Yes, it's allowed. What the funding is being used for is for a contractual person or a contract between Charles County Public schools and Bark, so they have an in-person monitoring session versus everything being done remotely, so this funding is paying for that person to actively monitor any activities that happen on their education platform.

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Kate Hession: And it was approved last fiscal year as well?

Gifty Quarshie: It was, yes.

Robert Gorrell: Say that again.

Kate Hession: The Subcabinet approved it, the same grant last fiscal year.

Robert Gorrell: And is it being effective? What's the story on it?

Gifty Quarshie: So, we don't have any story in terms of how it helped them last year, but what we know is that they're continuing the contract with Bark, but we can definitely get some additional information in terms of effectiveness.

Robert Gorrell: Well, I want to know. Well, last year was a COVID year, so probably it wasn't approved. I would like to know why is it more effective to have somebody in addition to the system doing things. I mean I can see the concept.

Gifty Quarshie: Uh-huh.

Robert Gorrell: That way they could relay thins to the security officer but I just want to know.

Dino Pignataro: And the numbers of issues and incidents online grew because there were too numerous for one technician.

Robert Gorrell: So, the security officers could visit homes then whenever issues came up.

Dino Pignataro: Oh, this is different. This is the contract company contract dealt with Bark, so they don't have to pull a security person full-time just to do this. They contract this out with the Bark organization, the software people and the technician they had last year. I think because everybody was home and in front of their computer, the numbers grew that one technician couldn't handle all the incidents.

30:00

Dawn Luedtke: And maybe like just a point of clarification, so when the students would log in from home, in most of those school systems, they were logging in using their school-based credential, your student identification number, how your school emails are set up, so once you were in, it was almost like a VPN into the school system, then whatever they're doing while they're logged in is to be akin to what would be happening if they were in the classroom or using the computing facilities

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at the school because it's passing through the school server.

Rober Gorrell: Yeah. I understand, but each school system has software like this anyway.

Dawn Luedtke:Yes.

Robert Gorrell: And have to adapt to and so this is an additional resource, so yeah, I'd like to know what they do. And if it's good, it's a legal use of the money that maybe it frees up that funding for use in the educational system, otherwise.

Maria Rodwski-Stanco: Well, you're saying that I'm thinking if it makes sense in what county, if it's worked there as Cecil County, should we be looking at this broadly.

Robert Gorrell: Maybe even buy a cheaper contract because you're buying the volume if it has purpose.

Mohammed Choudhury: Any other comments? Questions? Questions to approve?

Dawn Luedtke: I guess will my point of clarification. Are you asking to receive the additional information prior to approving.

Robert Gorrell: No.

Dawn Luedtke: Looking forward for next question.

Robert Gorrell: Condition.

Dawn Luedtke: Gotcha, okay.

Robert Gorrell: Need to modify the motion staff question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mohammed Choudhury: So, for future session, you would like to be added to discussion. Motion to approve. So moved by Mr. Pothier.

Colonel Jerry Jones. Second.

Mohammed Choudhury: Second by Colonel Jones. All in favor.

Group: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All opposed. Same sign. Moving on.

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Gifty Quarshie: So, the next system is Frederick County Public Schools. They're requesting approximately \$24,762 to purchase and install six cameras at six different Frederick County School Stadiums. They will also purchase and install assisted equipment at all seven county public school stadiums that were listed in the application and of course other installation materials. And again, the request is for \$24,762. Any questions?

Mohammed Choudhury: Question.

Robert Gorrell: I'll make a comment. It makes a lot of sense to add this into an area where public is gathering.

Maria Rodowski-Stanco: Is it one camera per stadium? Any clue do we need other cameras to assist? It is one camera per stadium?

Mohammed Choudhury: They say their application if they have cameras are being installed on these, or these are the first time they're ever installed.

Gifty Quarshie: So, based on this application, they are integrating a lot of the cameras that they have on a network platform so that all of the cameras can talk to one another, so this is part of that project where they are replacing cameras that are currently there that are not part of the network platform so that they are visible to the Frederick County security employees.

Mohammed Choudhury: Any other questions or comment? Motion to approve. Motion yes. Second. I'll second. All in favor? All opposed. Say none.

Gifty Quarshie: So, this is a final request for today from Montgomery County Public School Systems, so they're requesting the full \$25,000 to fund school safety security training initiatives for their school safety security staff. Now, these staff members are 10 month employees, so until the school years, that's Montgomery County Public School System is not able to pay them, so this funding will allow them to bring them in a day ahead of school starting to provide about three to four hours' worth of school safety training and the expected or projected rate is about \$28 per hour for each of these staff members to receive the three to four hour training that will be provided to them.

35:00

Mohammed Choudhury: Any question?

Robert Gorrell: Yes, you guys provide training, right? Is there any way that they could come here instead to receive the training and save them this expense?

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Dino Pignataro: They're going to have the expense regardless who gets the training because they're 10-month employees, security staff. The day they hit the streets, the day they hit the offices, they already have their days and weeks mapped out. This is additional training, I'm going to bring them in for a day ahead of time. Their union contract is very tight over there. They won't let them do it unless they're being paid.

Robert Gorrell: So this is for salary?

Gifty Quarshie: These are for salaries. Yes, this is not for the trainer.

Dino Pignataro: For the training that they provided for them to attend.

Gifty Quarshie: Yes, well, for them to attend.

Kate Hession: Although would argue it's more like overtime, right?

Gifty Quarshie: Correct.

Kate Hession: So, it's not their 10-month salary, it's additional to be able to bring them in and train them during the two months that they're out.

Mohammed Choudhury: They do that with teachers formally actually pay, so not all equates, so I'm assuming they're like pay, but it pays to go on training.

Robert Gorrell: It's not like they can start the next day. But apparently they can't, they need to attend. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Mohammed Choudhury: Any specialty questions or wonders? Motion to approve. Thank you, Secretary Beatty. Second. All in favor.

Group: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: This concludes all the grants. Next, we will discuss the recommendation for MCSS to include in the annual report members of the public can find last year's report posted on the MCSS website. Kate, please walk us through our discussion regarding the recommendations for MCSS.

d. Subcabinet Recommendations & Priorities

i. MCSS

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ii. Advisory Board

Kate Hession: Sure, so the last page in your packet that was on the table, it was also was sent to you ahead of time, so the top section just talks about the responsibilities of the Subcabinet as outlined in the statute, the Safety Learn Act of 2018, so we are recommending under the four discussion for MCSS that the following three recommendations from the Subcabinet be included in your annual report at the end of the year, so these are recommendations that you would be making to the Center on initiatives that you want us to do over the next year.

So, I'm happy to answer any questions about those recommendations. The first is expanding the outreach of the Safe Schools Maryland Anonymous Reporting System. So, that's obviously is a priority of the Governor's Office. It was implemented in 2018. It's been very successful. Obviously, the volume's been a little low given the pandemic, so our hope is to figure out ways to better market the program so that it's known throughout the state. And just for clarification, Safe Schools Maryland is free to every school in Maryland, public school, private school, non-public special education facilities, every school in the state.

The second is to identify gaps in school safety preparedness, planning and training and coordination and then develop any additional training, guidance, templates or other resources that may be of assistance to schools throughout the state and then the final is to identify, develop, and conduct training workshops for school safety stakeholders that includes SROs and school security employees. Not just seminar based, but also role-playing type trainings where we can actually sit and look through scenarios with that. So, those are the three recommendations before you for consideration and approval.

Mohammed Choudhury: Discussion.

Carol Beatty: Question about first bullet. The Safe School of Maryland.

Kate Hession: Yes.

Carol Beatty: And you said that it was available to any school for free?

Kate Hession: Correct.

Carol Beatty: Do we have a list of who is in it?

Kate Hession: Who's in it?

Carol Beatty: Yes.

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Kate Hession: We do. Yes, so every public school in Maryland, and Sandy, correct me if I'm wrong, there's approximately 350 private schools?

Sandra Caldwell: We have about 500 private schools right now.

40:00

Kate Hession: So, up to 500 private schools, there's 1400 all the public schools in Maryland.

Carol Beaty: Taking advantage.

Kate Hession: Are taking advantage of it, yes.

Carol Beaty: And you can target those who haven't yet.

Kate Hession: Yes. And we've actually been doing that, so we have been reaching out to them individually because obviously we have all the names, so we know who to reach out to, we know who's in the system and who's not. So, we're able to target them individually and we've been very successful.

Mariaq Rodowski-Stanco: Just in terms of your information and background in terms of best practices, trauma, inform all the various protocols that go with that who or what went into working with in terms of those guidelines, those trainings, and I'm essentially offering the partnership we have with various pieces of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, School of Social Work, etc, etc, in that capacity because that's one of the areas we are working on and is trying to expand what we are offering in terms of advance based practices and where we can to set up multiplier systems so that we're bringing in our HBCUs to be essentially getting trained as trainers so that then they can go out and be the providers of that, so in any way we can piggyback on any other efforts to get more evidence based practice models out there.

Kate Hession: That would be fantastic. That would be great. So, we have subject matter experts from across the state supporting our initiatives, so Mike is in the room, so Mike oversees our SRO training, so he will definitely touch base with you after this and we'll figure out how we can connect the dots if they're not already connected.

Robert Gorrell: So, one of the topics, it sounds like the topic was most interest was gang violence and how we can build processes to assist. Could we add that to this list because it seems like it deserves some study and development of programs specifically.

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Kate Hession: And Mr. Gorrell, you mean? Bullet three, add it into bullet three.

Robert Gorrell: Yeah.

Dawn Leudtke: Add in the trainings?

Kate Hession: Okay.

Robert Gorrell: You are in the training which would be bullet two because if there's so much interest, is there a gap in available information to support them?

Kate Hession: Okay.

Mohammed Choudhury: How often are we using students in our training? I mean, one of the most popular sessions was using students, so designing with them rather than doing to them. I'm curious how often we are intentional with that, this was kind of the first time they attended a conference like this because they're very active.

Kate Hession: They are.

Mohammed Choudhury: I mean I have a board member who's very passionate, but I've found the work students, they will do, they understand

Kate Hession: Yeah, we've done actually quite a bit. So, your new board member Kevin was actually on our student focus group for the first year, so we have utilized the student focus group to help us. Dawn finalized one of her trainings where we got input from the students. We've run other trainings through them. So, it's sort of in the infancy stages, but we have definitely been looping them in more and more as we develop this training and our SRO training. We were doing some videos where we're involving students in those so that we can show the interaction between an SRO or a security employee and the students, so we're sort of expanding that as much as we can.

Mohammed Choudhury: More we can do that, the more we apply it across the system.

Kate Hession: Yeah, sure. Absolutely.

Mohammed Choudhury: Are there any other changes or additions to the recommendation for MCSS? Can I get a motion to include the recommendations in the draft annual report? Motion by Mr. Gorrell. Do I have a second.

Colonel Jones: Second.

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Mohammed Choudhury: I have a second by Colonel Jones. All in favor.

Group: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All oppose. I see none. Move on.

Kate Hession: All right. So, the next piece is for the Advisory Board. So, the Advisory Board, as you know, is to be providing you recommendations and guidance on school safety initiatives. So, the first thing we are hoping the Subcabinet will recommend for the Advisory Board is to review and revise the Behavioral Threat Assessment Policy. If you recall, that was developed in 2018, so several years ago right after the law was implemented, the Center wasn't even fully staffed.

45:00

There were only two and a half, three individuals working for the Center at the time. So, this is really an opportunity to dig into that policy and see if there's any additions, updates, changes that need to be made.

Mohammed Choudhury: Questions?

Robert Gorrell: So, the question, you've been collecting a lot of data.

Kate Hession: Uh-huh.

Robert Gorrell: How is that organized to as an asset for the Advisory Board to look at, to see what parts of the policy are working well and where they need to shore up for other parts?

Kate Hession: Yeah. So, you mean the data that we collect from the school systems. So, they actually have access to all of that. We've presented that data back to them on multiple occasions, and this would be an opportunity for us to sit down with them. Cross out, there's some legal side that needs to be worked out, right? So what's that piece and then what are from an implementation perspective, what are changes we can make to the policy that would be useful for the school systems to be able to implement?

Robert Gorrell: If you mentioned advertising and getting the word out and the tip line has been pretty successful.

Kate Hession: Uh-huh.

Ron Pierce: So, which particular tips, for instance have been the most valuable and

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Kate Hession: Uh-huh.

Robert Gorrell: How can these guys would threat policy –

Kate Hession: Uh-huh.

Robert Gorrell: Figure out a way to amplify that and make it more robust.

Kate Hession: Uh-huh.

Dawn Luedtke: Was your question about data specific to the behavioral threat assessment policy?

Robert Gorrell:: Yes, it was, uh-huh.

Dawn Luedtke: Okay. So, there isn't a statutory mandate to collect any data, so the Center does not actually have any data related to the implementation of the individual school system level behavioral threat harassment policies.

Robert Gorrell:: All right.

Kate Hession: So, we have anecdotal information, we have conversations with the partners on things that are happening.

Robert Gorrell: Can we get some survey, you know, this related to their individual policy so that we have comparable.

Kate Hession: So, we can ask.

Robert Gorrell: Okay.

Kate Hession: We can certainly ask those questions, you know, again, as Dawn mentioned, there's no statutory requirement that they respond, but we can certainly start those conversations.

Robert Gorrell: Sure.

Maria Rodowski-Stanco: Do we have any anecdotal information regarding suicidality, suicidal comment, anything that's coming through the tip line, clustering around that? I mean, we're seeing numbers going. We don't have a good sense as well. Speculation as to why, but nothing that's, you know, being driven responses.

Kate Hession: We do, we are seeing those numbers. And we are seeing sort of the

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results on the other side, so what the school systems are doing for individual schools are doing to provide supports to those students, so we've had a couple of success stories. Again, it's anonymous systems, so we can't be very specific in an open meeting about some of the data we're seeing, but we can certainly bring that to you.

Maria Rodowski-Stanco: Any trends, any general information, anything useful?

Kate Hession: Yeah, we can actually do a presentation for you in November if you like. We can go through all of that and, and see where we are.

Robert Gorrell: Mr. Chair and I'm sorry, I was just thinking back as you were talking about Maryland and your University and the Hunger project that is looking to try to identify where exactly we have the highest areas of hunger within Maryland. Apparently, they've gone a long way in building these metrics. Is hunger tied to these problems like suicide or gang violence and is there a connection? Because if it is, maybe it's a data point that the University of Maryland might want to consider, you know, using the data from tip lines and directly from a LEA's.

Sandra Caldwell: Beyond hearing about what was being done during COVID in terms of school launch semester, I had very little information about the project or which part of Maryland is doing it. Google's out there if we want to find out.

Dawn Luedtke: And in terms of the tip lines data itself, there are restrictions and there are a lot of different legal considerations as to what or how that data could be used other than in the aggregate.

Robert Gorrell: Yeah, so in area you've got identified hunger area particular incidences that we want to be concerned with and relate to those general aggregate areas. And I'm totally ignorant, I just heard this listening to it on NPR as I was driving up. I'm trying to think, I'm in the facility business, so how does it relate to me? So, I was thinking about it from that perspective. Relates certainly to your work.

Mohammed Choudhury: Questions, comments, any changes or additions to the items for the Advisory Board?

Kate Hession: Oh, I'm sorry. The second one was only sort of an expansion of what the Advisory Board has been tasked to do previously. And that is identifying, prioritizing if there are new regulations, the Subcabinet should develop. If there are additional policies under guidelines, templates, things like that would, that would be useful. Thank you.

3. Closing Items – Mr. Choudhury

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a. Next Meeting – Monday, November 8, 2021

b. Adjournment

Mohammed Choudhury: Can I get a motion to approve the additions. Motion. Thank you, Mr. Pothier. Second. Second. All in favor. All oppose. See n. Second. All in favor. All oppose. See none. Looks like we are officially done with our agenda items. Anything else anyone else would like to bring up?

Robert Gorrell: Ms. Bydon has been a member, my designee at many of these meetings. She is retiring at the end of this month. I know. And I wanted to introduce you to Mr. Davis who runs our funding program and is very connected, as you know.

Kate Hession: Yes.

Robert Gorrell: Whenever we tried to align what it was we did and what you did, so he will be my designee the meetings if I am not.

Kate Hession: Oh, excellent. Thank you

Mohammed Choudhury: Thank you. Do I have a motion to adjourn. Motion by Mr. Gorrell. Second. Second. All in favor.

Group: Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: All oppose. See none. Meeting adjourned.