MCSS Subcabinet Meeting: August 8, 2022

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1. Welcome the Subcabinet-Chair, Mr. Mohammed Choudhury

Mohammed Choudhury: Welcome everyone to the meeting of the Maryland Center for School Safety Subcabinet Meeting. It is great to see everyone virtually. Hopefully, everyone is having a great summer. We do not have a long agenda today. Still, short or long is always a very important topic to ensure the health and safety of our students and the hard work that the Subcabinet invests time in, so I thank you guys for joining us today and for our public viewers. With that, I will ask if there are any additions to the agenda from the team or anyone else, so I will pause for that.

1a. Declaration of quorum

Okay, seeing none, I think we are good. We can dive right into the agenda items, and I will let Kate and her team take over, and then wherever we have to vote, we will make sure to stop for any discussions and move forward. With that, Kate, the floor is yours.



1b. Additions to the Agenda

M. Kate Hession-MCSS: Thank you, good morning, everyone. Again as Mr. Choudhry said, it is nice to see everybody, although virtually. So, if we can have the next slide. So, the first item on the agenda is just a recap of our summer conference, so Jim Hott is going to talk through how the conference went; we have a short little video that hopefully, we would not have any technical difficulties sharing with you, but I am going to turn it over to Jim Hott who was the Co-chair along with Jesika McNeal with in putting together this year's Annual School Safety Conference. So, Jim.

2. Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS)

2a. 2022 Summer School Safety Conference Recap

Jim Hott: Thank you, Kate; good morning, everyone. Thank you for allowing me to be here today. I just want to first start by thanking our team at the Center for coming together, banding together, and putting forth a wonderful conference. We have a lot of good feedback from our attendees. Just to give you a short brief overview, we had 360 registrants for the conference. We had 210 attendees on Tuesday, 72%, and then we had 144 attend on Wednesday. There were some things that came up through local school systems, and I think that prevented some people from attending, on those days that they wished they had been able to be there. We did have a two-day conference. It was at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum Heights. We have four keynote sessions and 15 different breakout sessions. So, the only thing I want to talk about is just a couple of the comments that people left for us.

They were overwhelmingly appreciative of the Student Focus Group members who provided a presentation on social media usage, which was a big hit. The most common comment over the two days in the survey, so far, is that they were glad to be back in person. They were



very happy to be there, happy to see each other, and happy to network with one another. Many liked the diversity in topics, and there is one comment that I wanted to pull out that I thought went well for us is that the presenters were very high-quality experts in their fields. The event was very well organized, and the folks were very friendly. So, we cannot ask for anything more. We had a lot of good speakers. We had a lot of great topics, and we are looking forward to next year. Still, we did have something this year that we have not had in the past, as we have Aaron Chiusano, who was able to provide us with a video of the conference and a video recap, and this video is excellent. I can talk much more and better than I can about how impactful this conference was. So, I just want to thank you all. I want to thank my team and we want to let you see the highlights of the video. Thank you.

Mohammad Choudhry: Can you guys hear the sound from the video?

No, the sound is inaudible.

Jeskia McNeil: If you stop sharing, Jeyan, stop sharing and then share again and click the audio button.

5:00

Jeyan Jebaraj: All right, let's try now.

Jim Hott: The conference theme is the school safety collaborative approach. It is all about finding speakers in our State that does wonderful things that aren't known on a daily basis known about, and we can share that here, and through that, our partners across the State can learn more about what they do, and maybe they can apply that to their jurisdictions as well.

Mehnaz Fatima: The purpose of attending this conference was to definitely learn what is going on, stay abreast with the student's



behavior, learn about the challenges, and find ways to address them in our community.

Jeneen Stewart: I am the student support supervisor in Frederick County Public Schools, where I focus on implementing restorative practices across our entire county. We think about it as a whole child approach, similar to what we heard at the conference.

Aaron Chiusano: This is Aaron Chiusano with Maryland Center for School Safety here at a summer conference. I am with Sergeant Rebecca Carrado and Nevada, and you guys are with...

Sergeant Rebecca Carrado: We are school resource officers with the Frederick Police Department. We received Nevada a year ago, so she has been with us for just a short time, but in that time, we have used her to kind of bridge the gap with our students; maybe they do not feel comfortable with the officer, and maybe they prefer to just talk to the dog and that is perfectly fine, it is non-confrontational, it is non-judgmental.

Aaron Chiusano: I am here with Claire alongside Henry, an amazing keynote speech to our school safety community. Claire, I just want to say what was your driving factor to be here today.

Claire Cabral: It is the students. I am so passionate about working with students. I am so passionate about school safety, and I feel the students' voice is so important to share.

Henry Meiser: So, this is my third year working with the Center. I



initiated the Student Focus Group back in 2020. People really understand how collaborative school safety is required to be.

Aaron Chiusano: What are some ways you want students to get engaged?

Claire Cabral: I really want the school safety chapter program to take off.

Henry Meiser: We have a couple of different engagement programs specifically designed for students. The one that I work most closely with is our Student Focus Group.

Aaron Chiusano: What are you hoping to take away from the conference?

Brenda Harne-Herbert: Knowledge that I did not have before and information that I can use back at my school teams to implement. Like for the students that we saw this morning, just the information about social media, I knew none of that, none of it; I felt totally in the dark.

Lynn Riemer: My name is Lynn; the kids call me the drug lady, but I have a degree in chemistry, biology, and psych, and I have done a lot of law enforcement with the DEA in the North Metro Transport. I kind of come from a law enforcement background with science.

Aaron Chiusano: Watching your presentation and talking to some fellow staff members, where do we draw that line between giving all the information to children versus holding information? Where do you follow in that category?

Lynn Riemer: I tell people all the time in the science shows to talk to your kids. Talk, talk, talk, talk to your kids. You are talking too much rather than the house that has drugs, and the people who are forcing them through peer pressure to try it first.



Chris Fraley: Here, at the conference representing NASRO, the National Association of School Resource Officers. I am the Region 2 Director, which covers six states, and one of those states is Maryland. It is always nice for a Regional Director to be able to make a States Conference. A lot of information I am looking to take back.

Aaron Chiusano: Do you think you will attend next year's conference?

Mehnaz Fatima: I definitely will attend, and I might bring more people from my school to attend the conference.

Laura Clary: This is our second time participating in this. First time in person, though, so we were really happy that we are here today with you guys.

Brenda Harne-Herbert: I definitely would come again and recommend it to anybody; it is very enlightening.

Aaron Chiusano: I heard one comment last night that said there is not one thing that I have attended that I have not learned something from. That's why we are here.

M. Kate Hession-MCSS: Thank you, Jim and Aaron, for the great video. I will open it up to any questions from the Subcabinet, on any other content that was delivered, or the conference in general. Mr. Choudhary, I do not see any questions in the Subcabinet at the conference. If you are ready, I can go on to the Advisory Board update.

Mohammed Choudhury: That sounds good to me.

10:00



2b. Advisory Board Update

M. Kate Hession-MCSS: The Advisory Board had an incredible Chair over the last several years, Dr. George Arlotto, who was the local superintendent in Anne Arundel County, served as the Chair of the Advisory Board from 2018 to 2022. He has left his Chair and now we are waiting on the Governor's appointment office to appoint a new Chair to the School Safety Advisory Board, so we are waiting for that announcement. We expect that to be coming soon. We just do not have it yet. There have been some other minor changes, some folks have switched out. Still, you all know the Advisory Board is an incredible group of 24 individuals who are a cross-section of school safety discipline, so we have everything from public schools to private schools to nonpublic special education facilities. We have individuals with mental health and law enforcement expertise, so we have an incredible group that the incoming Chair will have a lot of work cut out for them over the next couple of years.

So, next slide.

At this point, Mr. Choudhury, I will turn it over to Gifty Quarshie. So, Gifty is our Fiscal and Grants manager. Gifty has two grant applications for the School Safety Subcabinet to review and consider and vote upon for the safe school's fund, and so I will turn it over to Gifty to go through the applications for both Allegany County and Charles County.

Mohammed Choudhury: Really quickly, Kate, are we skipping over the Regulations, or do you want to move the order in which you did that because I have it as C, item C?

M. Kate Hession-MCSS: I apologize.

Mohammed Choudhury: It is up to you; we can switch it up, we can take care of the grants, and then we could do the Regulations last or right after that.



2c. Subcabinet Regulations

M. Kate Hession-MCSS: We can switch it; we can move the slide ahead one and it looks like the slide got reversed; there we go.

Okay, so we will do the Regulations, that is great, and then we can go back to the Grant applications; we just move this slide back. So, in preparation for the Regulations, we have had some Regulations in place since 2019. Over the course of this summer, we had an incredible intern with us from Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg. He is a political science major, he is going to be a senior, he has been with us since June, and he has been working with the team to put together the updated proposed changes to the Regulations, so I will turn it over to Devin Peart. Devin, are you here with us?

Devin Peart: Yes, thank you, Kate, and thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to be here today and participate in the meeting. Mr. Chairman, we are seeking permission to publish two different updates to two different Regulations. The first is certification and training for School Security Employees and School Resource Officers. We just had a couple of updates, and the first one that I want to touch on is that we are creating a separate definition for School Safety Coordinators. Before I continue, are there any questions on that change from anybody? All right, seeing no questions, I will move on.

The second change we wanted to make is removing language that specified the number of hours for the model training.

Were there any questions on that change?

Okay. Moving on, we are also removing language on comparative compliance training.

Does anybody have any questions about that?

Okay. Next, we require SROs and SSEs to complete additional



professional development on an annual basis.

Are there any questions regarding that adjustment?

All right, seeing as there are none. The last change to this Regulation is that we are requiring local superintendents to certify school security employees, having completed the mandated training.

Are there any questions on that final change?

Okay. Moving on, the next Regulation that we are changing regards critical life-threatening incidents, and I will dive right into those adjustments.

The first adjustment we made clarifies the definition of a critical lifethreatening incident.

Are there any questions about that?

15:36

Okay. Moving on, we are refining the definition of school grounds. Does anybody have any questions regarding changing the definition for school grounds?

Okay. Next, we require certain individuals to participate in after-action meetings. Does anybody have any questions regarding that change for the after-action meetings?

No. Okay. Next, we require after-action reports to be submitted by a certain designated date.

Does anybody have any questions regarding the change to that?

Okay. Next, we require certain information to be provided in our afteraction reports.

Are there any questions regarding the new requirements for the afteraction reports?



Okay. Next, we are requiring MCSS to submit their mandated report even when a school system has not filed their report.

Are there any questions regarding that distinction?

Okay. The last change requires MCSS to develop and post guidelines on their website.

Are there any questions regarding those guidelines and that change?

Okay. Seeing there are none, I will turn it back over to you, Kate.

M. Kate Hession-MCSS: Thank you, Mr. Choudhury; I think we can vote or have the Subcabinet vote on 14:40:04 so the proposed amendments to Regulation 14:40:04, which does the Certification and Training for School Security Employees.

Mohammed Choudhury: Yes, so we will do them one by one. The action is requesting permission to publish amendments to COMAR 14:40:04 Certification of School Security Employees and School Resource Officers. Do I have a motion to approve publishing in taking this action?

Karl Pothier: I move to approve.

Mohammed Choudhury: Thank you, Mr. Pothier. We have a motion, any further discussions.

Okay, a second.

Unknown Speaker: Second.

Mohammed Choudhury: All right, all those in favor say, Aye. Members:

Aye.

Mohammed Choudhury: Anyone disagreeing with the motion of voting, nay say none with that the motion passes.



All right, let us go ahead and move on to the second item, so the action again for the public is to request permission to publish the amendments to COMAR 14:40:05, Critical Life-Threatening Incidents. Do I have a motion to publish?

Karl Pothier: I move again for that, move to approve.

Mohammed Choudhury: Okay, move to approve; we have a second.

Karl Jangles: Second.

Mohammed Choudhury: I am seeing any other discussions, none. All

those in favor say, Aye.

Members: Ayes.

Mohammed Choudhury: Any disagreement or nays saying none, the motion passes. Thank you.

We can move on to the grants.

2d. Safe Schools Fund Grant Applications

Gifty Quarshie: Good morning, Mr. Choudhury, and good morning members of the Subcabinet. Again, my name is Gifty Quarshie. I have been with MCSS for a while, and I thank you for the opportunity to present these two grants for the fiscal year 2023. So MCSS published the notification of funding availability for the fiscal year 2023 Safe School Fund Grant on July 25th, 2022. The deadline for the local school systems to submit their applications is on Friday, September 30th, 2022. The fiscal year 2023 budget appropriation, and funding allocation are in line with the last previous two years as in \$600,000 are appropriated for the safe school fund grant, and each local school system is allocated \$25,000 to be used on school safety initiatives. That falls within the allowable use of the fund as prescribed in the Safe to Learn Act of 2018.

20:00



So today, we have received two applications from two local school systems, as Kate mentioned, and those will be presented today for the Subcabinet to review and approve. You do have the application packets for both school systems. So, I will first start with the application from Alleghany County Public School System. The application from Alleghany County Public School System is for \$25,000, and they are requesting to use the allocation to continue to fund overtime pay for School Safety Officers that assist with school-based incidents, which is for both inside the schools and outside their school buildings. Alleghany County Public School notes in the application that they continue to experience a high volume of school-based incidents, and in many cases, the school safety officers are called on to investigate these incidents, some of which occur during off hours and on weekends and just a quick note, the Subcabinet has reviewed and approved this request from Alleghany County Public Schools systems, both in the fiscal year 2021 and 2022 and with that, I will open it up for any questions or comments.

Mohammed Choudhury: Any questions or comments? (See none in the chat). I think we are good. Can we move to approve? I already have a motion. Really quickly, I want to make sure for the record, can we move to approve them collectively, or do I have to do them separately?

Dawn Luedtke: The grant application as a whole?

Mohammed Choudhury: Yes, both grant applications together. Do we have to do each district separately because I have sat in meetings where we did each separately?

Dawn Luedtke: Yes, they often do them separately if there is a reason to believe that there might be a need to discuss any of the portions thereof. Right, but based on today's trajectory, I would suggest you just go ahead and do both at the same time.

Mohammed Choudhury: Okay, so I am going to re-state it and the



person who kindly did the motion. So, we will collectively have to approve the grant applications for Alleghany County and Charles County. So, do I have a motion?

Karl Pothier: I move to approve.

Mohammed Choudhury: Thank you, Mr. Pothier. Can I get any one second? Second by the Chair and with that all in favor say, Aye.

Members: Ayes.

Mohammed Choudhury: Those disapproving, saying none, motion passes. All right, we will move on to our next item, the final item, before we talk about our next meeting. It is the School Safety recommendations, Kate.

2e. School Safety Recommendations

M. Kate Hession-MCSS: Yes, thank you. I think this meeting is going to make record time. So, very quickly, just as a reminder, last August, the School Safety Subcabinet asked that the Advisory Board spend the school year identifying recommendations that they see the state, regardless of whether it was MCSS initiatives or just general school safety initiatives throughout the state, that they put those recommendations down and get them to the Subcabinet. So, that is the first document you have, which is the Advisory Board recommendations from last school year. You will see that they are actually broken down in several observation areas, so we have, I believe the slide is up, could you change the slide for me?

24:47

So, we have them broken down and categorized, so we have an



Evaluation in a Data Collection. We have recommendations under Resources and Training. We have recommendations from the Advisory Board under Emergency Preparedness and Building and Facility.

So, the guestion before the Subcabinet is, are there any recommendations in the report from the Advisory Board that you would like the Advisory Board to focus on this coming school year or any specific school safety topic that you would like the Advisory Board to drill down to any sort of report or documents or materials or other outcome that you would want the Advisory Board to do. I want to note that there is one recommendation under Building and Facilities. I believe it is 10.1. Yes, so recommendation 10.1. This would require collaboration between the IAC and so Arabia is the representative of the Subcabinet or the IAC, as well as MSDE and MCSS to review existing facilities security guidance and develop recommendations for minimum physical security in our facilities, to include both design minimums as well as technology, and very important for the Advisory Board, was any of those recommendations have the least negative effect on students, so I think including the student's voice in that you know our school safety Student Focus Group could be a good resource for that. I see, I think there is a question from Arabia.

Arabia Davis: Yes. The IAC's executive team would like to make a recommendation for item 10.1 to be slightly modified, and those changes of the Maryland State Department of Education, including the office of school facilities and the Center, in consultation with the IAC, should review existing facility security guidance. So that is the change. IAC is more than willing to provide facility expertise to schools, facilities, and branch where the director of school facilities serves as a designee to IAC and is familiar with the guidance and is equipped to assist with developing these recommendations. The IAC will again provide facility expertise as needed.



Mohammed Choudhury: I am trying to understand the logic behind that recommendation. It just kind of looks like the work is being put on MSDE there, and then we will just consult with you, and as a member of your board and IAC as well as the head of the MSDE, I would like further clarification on that, before I entertain something like that.

Arabia Davis: Okay. So, I can go back to Alex, the Acting Director, and also Kasandra to get further clarification.

Mohammed Choudhury: I appreciate it. I mean, we all work well together. This is one of those matters that we all have to really put our collective minds on, versus just putting it on one organization, and so I would like not to do something where it is just kind of lends into because I know how in-consultation tends to work. I have been around quite a bit to know that, so I think for now I would like to keep it as is, until we have further discussions in turn with this.

Arabia Davis: Yes, sir. Thank you.

M. Kate Hession-MCSS: Secretary Badie has a question, I believe.

Secretary Badie: Yes, hi. So, the Department of Disabilities has a question under Emergency Preparedness Assessment and Mr. Chair, would it be all right if I turn this over to my colleague at the Department, Cecilia Warren?

Mohammed Choudhury: I think that should be fine, as long as Council does not tell me you cannot have a guest speaker on your behalf. Council, is that okay?

Dawn Luedtke: That is fine as long as you are okay with it. Mohammed

Choudhury: I'm good with it.



Secretary Badie: Thank you so much. Cecilia. Cecilia Warren: Thank you,

Secretary Badie.

30:00

Cecilia Warren: This is Cecilia Warren; I am the Policy Director for Emergency Preparedness at the Maryland Department of Disability. My comment pertains to the Maryland Center for School Safety report on recommendations, page 4, under Emergency Preparedness and Assessment. We have a list of areas for review that are problematic and of the property itself. We feel it would be wise to include a bullet point that stipulates and also includes an assessment of the accessibility of the property with a focus on egress and people with disability self-evacuate. We know this topic has had intense focus at times over the last four years, and without a bullet point, it is something that may be overlooked. Thank you.

Mohammed Choudhury: Kate, do you have any thoughts on this?

M. Kate Hession-MCSS: Yes, so Cecilia, just for clarification, that is in the second document, correct? It is not the Advisory Board recommendations under the Emergency Preparedness section; the document titled CLT recommendations, the second one.

Cecilia Warren: The Maryland Center for School Safety recommendations. Yes, not the Advisory Board.

M. Kate Hession-MCSS: Yes, so Mr. Chair, MCSS would be fine with adding that. Absolutely. We can absolutely do that.

Mohammed Choudhury: Okay, that sounds good. Secretary Badie: Thank

you, Kate, thank you.



M. Kate Hession-MCSS: Before changing the slide, Mr. Choudhury, you had a question about the Advisory Board recommendations. I will talk about the recommendations that Cecilia mentioned. So, one of the regulations you just passed are the critical life-threatening incident reports, so when an incident occurs at a public school, they have a certain amount of time to hold an after-action meeting and get us after-action reports. Last school year, we had 17 critical life-threatening incidents. The recommendations in that report, or the recommendations that came out of those 17 incidents, and if you look at the top section of that report, there is basically a top 10. So, those are the 10 we found as repeat recommendations that came out of multiple of those 17 incidents.

So, the majority of those focused on emergency preparedness. So, that includes facility assessments ensuring that their facilities have the appropriate equipment and the systems and that the systems are checked and tested, emergency planning that they are actually conducting or updating emergency plans that they are making changes to their emergency plans, given the recommendations that MCSS has provided after reviewing their plans, that they are conducting certain training, that they are doing emergency exercises to include tabletop exercises with their local response partners and school systems, and then finally and really this one came out of multiple incidents, that is that they are monitoring the corrective actions, so they are identifying corrective actions. They are monitoring those corrective actions through completion. So, ensuring that they are following the entire cycle of preparedness when it comes to incidents that occur on school grounds and within your facilities. So that is really the nuance that you report.

So, the question before the Subcabinet is, one other thing the Subcabinet does is gives MCSS any recommended actions that they want us to take, any priority items that they want us to work on if there are documents



or guidance or specific resources that you really want the Center to focus on, and again the Advisory Board as well. We will want to take the Advisory Board items back to them and begin

working on the items for anything you would like MCSS to prioritize that benefits the school.

Mohammed Choudhury: I think I am seeing none. I would just say make sure that we put a special emphasis on preparing, especially through tabletop exercises and such, I think it is doing it in a way that does not disrupt academics and take some time. Still, thoughtfully and strategically throughout the year, they are not necessarily one and done things, so I would make sure that the Subcabinet and the staff really support our school systems in doing that well, I mean there are ways to do it, so it sticks in people minds and is part of the culture, versus kind of one and done type of thing. That is the one thing I would share, given that various things can happen.

35:00

3. Closing Items

3a. Next Meeting-November 14, 2022

I think we will move on. I do not know if silence means that we have to focus on all of them, so they are all equally important, but we will move on. We have our next meeting coming up on November 14th, 2022, which would be shifting back to a hybrid format, along with an in-person meeting. Is there anything else you would like to add or share, Kate or anyone else, for the good of the order before I move for that final motion so that you can move on with your day?

Dawn Luedtke: Kate, can I talk to them about the Active Assailant Conference so that they can share it within their departments? So, the



State's Active Assailant Interdisciplinary workgroup is hosting a daylong symposium on October 14th, 2022, that is Friday, in Annapolis, at the Double Tree, and the focus of the symposium this year is going to be on the prevention and intervention of incidents of mass violence. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Peter Langman, he is a clinical psychologist, and his research area is focused heavily on mass violence, but his publications are all related to school shootings, he also does research with the Entech at the United Secret Service, and he has been heavily involved in all of the secret service reports that you all have seen over the past two years as they have been increasing their program. And then in the afternoon we will have presentations related to state and local efforts on mass violence reduction including new legislation that passed the last session, and then a program related to grant funding and partnerships with our federal partners at the Department of Homeland and Security CP3 program, the Office of Juvenile Justice programs, and the governor's office of crime prevention youth and victim services, so it is free to apply, it is free to attend if you are selected to apply. We say apply because we may have more people apply to attend than we have space, but we do have room to accommodate just over 300 people, so the link is available. I can put that in the chat, or we can send it out to you, and it is on the AAIWG website.

3b. Adjournment

Mohammed Choudhury: Kate, anything else?

M. Kate Hession-MCSS: No.

Mohammed Choudhury: Okay. It is 10:40, a 41-minute meeting; I think if

I timed the last motion. So, do I have a motion to adjourn?

Unknown Speaker: I move.



Mohammed Choudhury: Second. I will second it. All in favor, say Aye.

Members: Ayes.

Mohammed Choudhury: Have a great day, be safe, and I am looking forward to seeing you guys in person or hybrid. Thank you to our Subcabinet team and our Council for continuing to ensure our students are safe and supporting our school systems.

Thank you, guys; I appreciate it.

