

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY
School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

November 17, 2025

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Welcome of the Advisory Board

MARY GABLE: Welcome to the School Safety Subcabinet meeting. I'm calling the meeting to order. Aaron, could you confirm that we are now live streaming?

AARON CHIUSANO: We are live streaming and recording.

MARY GABLE: Great. Thank you. Miss Johnson, please confirm that we have a quorum. I know we've heard from Kim. But is Miss Johnson here? I can't see her, but I assume she's here.

JEANEEN JOHNSON: Yes. I'm sorry. I am here. Good morning everyone. Yes, we do have a quorum.

MARY GABLE: Great. Thank you. Thank you very much. The last meeting of the Subcabinet was in August and the August meeting was recorded. That recording is available on the Maryland Center for School Safety website. As such, there are no meeting minutes to be approved, but we do have the agenda. So, I think looking at the agenda, is there a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting?

LAURA TORRES: This is...

KARL POTHIER: I move to approve the agenda.

MARY GABLE: I think that was Laura approving and a second from Karl.

KARL POTHIER: Second.

MARY GABLE: The second was Karl. Thank you. All in favor?

All: Aye.

MARY GABLE: Any opposed? I assume that we are good to go unless I hear otherwise. Thank you.

Annual Report

MARY GABLE: So, we'll go to the Annual Report and for that Kim, it's all yours. Thank you.

KIMBRERLY BUCKHEIT: Thank you. So, the Annual Report for 2025 was sent in advance from Kate for you to review, but it is also in the chat box. So, if you want you can also download the digital version from the hyperlink in the chat box. So, we are just going to kind of go through this and just a reminder that you as the Subcabinet do take a vote at the end to approve the 2025 report. next page. So, we have a lovely letter from our Subcabinet chair, Dr. Wright, this year. We appreciate her taking time to do that. Next page. In the introduction section... so just one of the kind of maybe important notes you will see that this year's is much more abbreviated than in the past year. This is the second year that we've used the Flipping Book software program and we get analytics from that. So, as we started developing the 2025,

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we actually did look at the analytics from the 2024 version and could definitely see fatigue, the longer the document. You could actually see viewership drop off consistently as we went through. So, we really one of our primary efforts this year was to be very concise. So, there's pretty much a page for each program rather than multiple pages. So, the other thing that you'll note in the news... so the layout of this page is what follows on the proceedings. So, the title, the reference, so where either in the Safe to Learn act code or regulation, the reference to the program may fit or what the program achieves, or does within the Safe to Learn act as well as then the hot link for where folks can go to find more information on that program. The icons, the four icons for the layered approach. We also wanted to continue to reinforce the importance of the layered approach. So, you'll see those icons represented at the top of the program page. So, what each one of the layers the program really looks to address. And then at the bottom of each page for programs, you'll see the partnership logo. So, instead of having a separate page for all the different agencies that MCSS partners with, we actually embed it on the program page where that pops up. So just a little highlight of what you'll see for the programs. Next page, Aaron.

So key accomplishments. We've stayed consistent the last few years with this starting with the major accomplishments for the 2025 school year. So, the Safe Schools Maryland tipline, our Behavior Threat Assessment work, the Conference, the summer Conference, the SRO/SSE Training Academy, some expansion of programs that you'll see that are new for this year that are featured in the APR and the coordinated emergency preparedness items. So, this is really just kind of a big sort of overview of what is also within the report. Next page, Aaron. And then we also feature our 26 priorities. So, these are items that MCSS will be focusing on as we move through 2026. So, school-based violence prevention as a priority. And then you see these icons that we represented from the layers. So, the personal connections and the culture and climate icon for that school-based prevention, the anonymous reporting system, we'll talk a little bit through that. But we have submitted a departmental bill that we have one of our advisory board members, Delegate Ebersole, will be the primary bill sponsor for that for us to codify the tipline. The coordinated emergency response and preparedness continuing as we move forward. So, you see security in the emergency preparedness icons there and digital safety. So, a number of different priority areas in the space of digital safety. So again, security and emergency preparedness icons. Next slide Aaron. So, table of contents. So again, you see this is much more condensed than in last year's. Next slide, Aaron. And all the programs and resources have really been put into one very large section of the report. Next slide. So, I'm not going to...I'll just kind of go through relatively quickly on each of these, but so in all of the program pages, we've embedded the data for the year. So, sometimes you'll see a graph of Safe Schools Maryland. Here we have a visual representation of the data for the last school year as well as numbers sort of calling out so like 1,282 reports. So, all of the information related to the tipline is embedded in the red phase lines. So, above the phase line is just a very brief description of what the program is. The two quarters in the middle, the half in the middle are the current data for the 2025 school year. And then the bottom, below the red line, is looking to the future. So, as we go into 2026, what additional efforts related to the tip line will occur. And then you see those logos at the bottom, these connections that the tip line has.

Next slide, Aaron. Behavior Threat Assessment. Again, same kind of dynamic intro to what it is, the efforts for 2025. One of sort of the new initiatives that we did this past year was to actually host quarterly meetings with our Behavior Threat Assessment leads across the state. We've continued that going into this school year as well. and those have been really productive activities for us. Next slide. The conference. So again, we have some analytics related to the number of conference attendees and the number of sessions that occurred. We highlight the SRO of the year, Corporal Harrison from Howard County and we would continue to advance the SRO of the year program going forward. The art showcase and just a very small thumbnail

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of the winners from this past year and the theme. And then as we look to 2026, the dates of the summer Conference coming up in 2026 and we are back at Turf Valley. And the theme will be *The Layered Approach to School Safety*.

Next slide. So, security personnel. So, you'll also notice on this page is that we have a bunch of stuff kind of condensed here with a number of hot links. So, on this page you'll see reference to the new training program that was basically an in-service program for individuals had previously participated in the SRO training academy to be able to have some continuing education opportunities for those individuals. And over a thousand folks have participated and completed that. So, 1,253 participants in that program in addition then to the 239 brand new folks who did the training academy. But then also on this page is where you see the adequate coverage report link and the information related to the incident of force report also. So those have all been put onto this one page. Next slide. Grant administration has so again sort of condensed where we do a totality of the total number of dollars administered by Gifty's office and MCSS and the distribution of the four grants in 2025. And then again below that red line we highlight the five grant programs that will be administered in 2026.

Next slide. For emergency planning, this is a big data page. So, this is the information reported by our local public schools related to this past school year for emergency plans as well as the number of emergency responses that occurred during the 24-25 school year. And then we our graphic... really, we feature the Standard Response Protocols that we continue to advance across the state. And then below the red line, really speaks to continuing to advance that. And Our goal, our priority, for this coming school year is to try to get all 24 LEAs on board with utilizing the I Love You Guys protocols. The next slide. This is the lessons learned slide. So based on the critical life-threatening incidents from the past school year, there were 25 in total. What were the items? So, the sort of the key takeaways from those different CLTs, critical life-threatening incidents. And then you'll notice here the priority areas... really using data to make some informed decisions around what MCSS should be prioritizing. So, you'll see those priority areas that we talked about in the beginning for 2026 reappear here on the lessons learning page. Next slide. The active assailant lockdown drill work was very comprehensive this past year. So, here we have references to the collaboration with the University of Maryland, the survey that's being distributed to parents, students, and school staff, as well as the updated guidelines. So, a lot of information packed in here will be 2026 will be year two of the study. We had six LEAs represented in 2025. So again, the goal as we advance through this current school year is to have every single one of our public LEAs represented inside of that survey. So, we're getting information from the cross-section of people across the state. Next slide. The coordinated statewide preparedness effort continues. So, this is where we speak somewhat about the statewide exercises that are hosted in the spring and the fall as well as the are we ready exercises continue to be available to anyone to use nationally, not just within the state of Maryland. And that continues to be one of the pages where we see one of our biggest hits on the website. So, the 2795 visitors to that page, and that it's being accessed over 3,000 times. So, we know that folks are going to that page to download those exercises to use with their school staff. Next slide, next page, our student voice page. I actually just realized yesterday or on Friday in a meeting with Prince George's County student government folks that Omari Barnes, who was one of our prodigies, I will say, for a couple of years, is the student member of the board, which I had not realized, for the state board. , so proud of O'Marie and, happy to have helped him along the way. Although he doesn't need a lot of help, nor does Zaria and nor does Gavin. So, we appreciate our students who have been really active not just at MCSS but obviously taking that work related to the importance of school safety across a whole bunch of different organizations and groups. So, for us to continue to elevate student voice in as many ways as we can and the importance of them having an impact on safety in their schools. Next slide.

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The comprehensive approach. So, as we spoke this is sort of being layered throughout the APR. The focus of the Conference will be related to the comprehensive approach. We plan to create a legislative priority document this year that really highlights again the importance of this layered approach. So, this page helps to define again what that comprehensive layered approach to school safety looks like. Next page. The Handle with Care initiative. You see a nice graphic. So actually, this graphic is pulled from the web page. So, if you go to the Handle with Care page, you will actually see real time data that gets uploaded there. So, for the 24-25 school year, just represented visually, this was a new program in terms of who MCSS and MSDE sort of managing it had been previously with GOCAP and they shifted it over to us. So, it's a shared venture between Mary's office and our office and that has worked well for individuals continuing to advance the Handle with Care program. Next slide. Transportation safety— something that MCSS has been doing. We hadn't necessarily featured it in the annual report in the past, but this past year in 2025, we had some really nicely done visual documents that Ja can take some credit for. It also created an opportunity for us to work directly with MSDE. Gabriel Rose had identified the need related to parents who were boarding buses apparently last year and we wanted to make sure that they knew that that was against the law and they cannot do that. So, we created a one-page infographic with his help, having him help us with some content for that to be able to design a dual-purpose type of item. So wanted to kind of feature those new items that were pushed out this past year. Next slide. And then actually the last one in our programs and resources is again new. So, the integrated preparedness plan was actually something that occurred three years ago. But this past year, we made updates to it and approached it in a little bit of a different way. All of you actually were part of helping to make this occur. So, MCSS facilitated individual meetings with all of these different agencies to really talk about what priority areas their agency already had that could correlate with school safety, ways that we can integrate school safety across the various state agencies. So, this page really just kind of speaks to that effort, a little bit of how we went about doing this new workshop this past year. And then these five areas were actually identified by the group as integration opportunities or priorities for all the agencies to really look to advance in that school safety space. Next slide, Aaron. And then, so we move to just the Engagement section. Next slide, where we speak to all the different community committee representations that MCSS is on. Next slide. And other communication and engagement opportunities. So, these are often conferences that either MCSS has presented at or has had an exhibit booth to again elevate the work of school safety and the agency. Next slide. Some out some analytics related to the community engagement. So just these are the sort of social media platforms as well as sort of digital. So, we included Govdelivery this year because honestly, Govdelivery is probably where we get the most direct communication. So, we have 2900 subscribers who receive our newsletter monthly as well as other pieces of information. So, that is our really our primary form of communicating. And then below that is a sort of visual representation of our web page. So, we had 34,000 unique visitors. So individual people coming to the MCSS website. They spend about 54 seconds on average. So almost a minute on the site, which is a pretty good number. They're spending some time there. They're not hitting it and leaving. So relatively happy with that. And the 247,270 roughly, visits to the page. So, the number of different times that folks have people that have come to the page. And then the table just gives some analytics related to which pages. So, these are sort of the top pages that folks are coming there to get information about. So, some analytics on that and then the bottom analytic is how people find us. So, we actually see that people go directly to the page. So, they are specifically directly searching for the Maryland Center for School Safety. And then the next one is a Google search. So, somebody putting in the Google search box, and then we had an interesting one actually from LEA web pages. So different public school systems that are actually embedding the MCSS link that folks come by way of that also. So just some interesting items that help to

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inform us as we go forward also. Next page and then so we have Yep. We have a nice graphic there just related to the tip line. Next page, the last section is really administration. So, the first piece of that is all of you, our Subcabinet members. Next one is a listing of all of our Advisory Board members. And then the last element here, is actually the organization chart. And what will occur here is when you hover over one of the individuals and if you wanted to click on Kate, then it will pop up and you could actually look at Kate's bio. Last year we had like multiple pages of everybody's bio, but just kind of using tech as and doing it in a different way this year. And last page is just a the team and a reminder of the 2026 conference. And on that note, Miss Gable, we're open for any questions.

KIMBERLY BUCKHEIT: Oh, Mary, you're mute.

MARY GABLE: Yeah, thanks. I have a couple of comments. Thank you. I neglected... I know that Kate is here and but cannot stay and I had down to refer to Kate at the very beginning and I did not. Kate, are you still able to be there?

KATE BRYAN: I am. I'm here.

MARY GABLE: Okay. So, I just wanted to Kate is presenting in Kentucky on the program and so I just wanted to... Kate, did you want to say anything at the very beginning?

KATE BRYAN: I, you know, we're finishing up 2025, which seemed to go incredibly fast this year. It was here before we knew it. But you know, as I say every year, the work that we do, the amount of work that gets done by our really small team is just amazing. So, I am incredibly honored to be a part of such a group of individuals who are so incredibly dedicated to the work that they do. And I'm really excited to see what comes forward in 2026. So, I know you have a long meeting, so that's all I want to say. I just want to recognize the team.

MARY GABLE: Thanks, Kate. We appreciate your leadership and the fact that you are sharing the work of the Maryland Center is incredible. I have a few comments to make, but before then does anyone have any questions for Kim? Thank you, Kim. It was really appreciated. The robust review of this report which is quite incredible of all the things that you've done. So, any questions for Kim?

KIMBERLY BUCKHEIT: Laura and Secretary Batty, I see your comment. We'll make that update. Thank you for pulling that out. Yep.

MARY GABLE: Anyone else with a comment or an update? I just want to say that for Maryland to have the Maryland Center for School Safety, there has to be a true highlight across the country. And kudos to Kate and Kim and every member of the team. Just to take a little time and review what you reviewed, Kim, and all the work that you do. We in this division are proud to be your partners and at times, we rely upon you and always are saying, "Did you check with Kate? Did you check with MCSS?" They need to be involved also. And we appreciate you doing the same for us. But kudos to all of you. What a remarkable program. So, thank you. At this time, is there a motion to approve the 2025 annual report?

ARABIA DAVIS: Motion to approve.

MARY GABLE. Thank you, Miss Davis. And a second, please.

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CAROL EBATTY: Second.

MARY GABLE: Is that Carol?

CAROL BEATTY: Yes. Thank you.

MARY GABLE: Thank you. Any discussion? All in favor?

JEANEEN JOHNSON: Yes. I'm sorry.

MARY GABLE: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes.

JEANEEN JOHNSON: No, just want to make sure that how bad the motion is clear that, it is to approve the annual report with the amendment.

MARY GABLE: Oh, thank you, Jeaneen.

JEANEEN JOHNSON: Yes, ma'am.

JEANEEN JOHNSON: Yeah.

ARABIA DAVIS: Motion to approve with the amendment.

CAROL BEATTY: Second.

MARY GABLE: Great. And thank you. Any other discussion? All right. All in favor of approving the 2025 annual report with amendments.

ALL: Aye.

MARY GABLE: Any opposed? Any abstentions? I don't think so. Motion passes. Thank you very much. Kim for going through it and for this report and for all of those who contributed to it and Kate, thank you for your leadership on this.

Safe Schools Fund Grant FY 26 Applications

Next item on the agenda is the Safe Schools Fund Grant for FY26 applications. We talked about this a little bit. You are... Miss Quarshie is going to go through them kind of generally quickly. We will do one vote at the end, but if anyone has any questions about any one of the grants individually, we'll pull that one out. We'll do the vote for the ones that you approve and we'll discuss any one that you have questions about. So, with that... I don't see her. There she is. It's all yours. Thank you.

GIFTY QUARSHIE: All right. Thank you. Good morning. And Miss Laura, I see your hand raised.

LAURA TORRES: I did have; I didn't know if you were going to go through them. I did have a couple of questions, but if you're going to go through each one, I'm happy to wait. I just

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wanted to make sure I didn't wait till we got to the point where we're making a motion to approve them.

GIFTY QUARSHIE: Okay. Sure. So, thank you. Good morning, everyone. Yes. So, for fiscal year 26, I just want to recap in terms of you know what the appropriation is and what the allocation per jurisdiction is. and so, for FY26, the appropriation for the Safe Schools Fund Grant is \$600,000 and each jurisdiction is allocated up to \$25,000. We know that, you know, quite a few of them asked for the full amount and some asked for a little bit less than that. In the August 11th meeting, I believe, there were three that were approved for Baltimore City, Carol County, and Queen Anne's County. So, today we have 19 of them. and I will just go over for the record each jurisdiction and the amount of their requests and a general overview of what their request entails. So, with that, I will go over each of them and I guess when we get to a specific jurisdiction, if you have a question, we can discuss that. and then once it's all done, the Subcabinet can take a vote on the applications. All right. So, I will start with Allegany County.

Allegany County is requesting to use all of its \$25,000 allocation to fund their School Safety officers that assist with school-based incidents inside and outside of its buildings. They also provide support for other school-based events such as sporting events and home visits for absenteeism, truancy, and the average overtime hourly rate is \$43.86. So again, Allegany County Public Schools is requesting to use all of its \$25,000 allocation to pay overtime wages for their school safety officers. Any questions on that?

Okay. So, moving forward, Anne Arundel County is requesting to use their FY26 Safe Schools Fund Grant allocation to replace nonfunctional and out of warranty exterior security cameras, throughout the school district. The school system's goal is to provide all schools with updated security equipment to provide a safe and secure learning environment. The breakdown of the number of cameras and the maintenance is provided for the Subcabinet for a total request of \$24,861. Any questions on that?

MARY GABLE: I do want to say you have all of those in your agenda and you can follow through and take a look at them as Gifty goes through them if that would be helpful. Next one. Thank you, Gifty.

GIFTY QUARSHIE: Sure. The next request is from Baltimore County Public Schools. They're requesting \$24,970 for four different projects. First one is for training. It is the Standard Reunification method, a 4-hour in-person training. The trainer session offered by I Love You Guys. They're also requesting the Title IX training for four employees. They are requesting to use part of the allocation for emergency notification system, the Omni Alert software licenses which also ties in with all of the Omni Alert weapon detection systems that they currently have. They're also looking to purchase a visitor management system and finally, they're looking to use part of their funding for school zone traffic enforcement at Eastern Tech High School. Any questions on that?

Okay. The next request is from Calvert County Public Schools. They are requesting \$25,000. The first request is to provide added coverage at the athletic stadium and field. So specifically, the request is to purchase and install cameras at various cover county public schools and the first one again is Calvert High school stadium. The second request is at their Sunderland Elementary School and they will also like to purchase additional surveillance camera equipment to add new cameras at other campuses yet to be identified. The total request again is \$25,000. Any questions on that one?

Okay. Next request is from Caroline County Public Schools. They're requesting to use their funding allocation to enhance the transportation department's radio communication system by

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integrating school administrators directly into the existing radio communication network at the department. They are requesting to purchase three Motorola base station radios plus all of the accessories and the total request is \$23,252. Any questions on that?

The next request is from Cecil County Public Schools. They're requesting to use all of their \$25,000 allocation to purchase digital portable radios and a digital repeater for the Cherry Hill Middle School for effective emergency communications and to enhance the two-way radio reception both inside and outside of the school building. Any questions on Cecil County's application?

The next request is from Charles County. This is a request that we've funded in prior years. They would like to use their fiscal year '26 funding again to subscribe to their Bark monitoring software which help actively monitor Charles County public schools' digital learning management platform as well as its office 365 platforms for threats, risk suicidal ideation and inappropriate materials. Again, they're requesting to use their \$25,000 allocation for the Bark monitoring software. Any questions on this?

Okay, moving on. The next request is from Dorchester County. They are requesting to use the allocation to implement the Raptor Emergency Management platform at all their county schools. This Raptor visitor management and volunteer management is already in place. The Raptor Emergency Management platform will add to the integrated and holistic concept in school safety. The platform will allow for drill management, reunification, and student and staff accountability during emergencies. Any questions on the Dorchester County application?

All right, the next request is from Frederick County. They are requesting to purchase and install video intercoms with camera capabilities at 11 schools that currently have outdated devices at the main exterior building entrances. And I am intentionally omitting the brand name in in my overview. The devices effectively harden the school entry points to ensure all visitors are properly identified and authorized for entry. The application does include a list of all 11 schools where the equipment will be installed. Any questions on this one?

Okay. The next request is from Garrett County. They are requesting to use their FY26 Schools Fund Grant allocation to cover the cost of overtime wages for Garrett County Sheriff's Office deputies to provide school zone traffic and safety enforcement during peak hours for pedestrian and school bus safety while schools are in session. Again, they're requesting all of their \$25,000 allocation. Any questions on the Garrett County application?

All right, the next request is from Harford County Public Schools. They're requesting to use the allocation to purchase safety radios and batteries for frontline staff to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of response time to potential threats and to ensure smooth reunification efforts during crisis. They're requesting \$24,994 dollars. Any questions on Harford County's application?

Okay. The next request is from Howard County Public School System. They are requesting the full \$25,000. and they will use that on four different projects. The first one is the curriculum enhancement and materials funds will be used to pay educators hourly wages to review, enhance, and enrich the new quarterly school safety curricula during summer 2026. The second project also involves staff training. Funds will cover the registration fees for up to 12 school administrators and support staff to participate in the comprehensive school threat assessment guidelines training level one and level two. For project number three, funds will be used to hire a third-party vendor to develop and manage a website clearing house for the school systems mental health resources for students and families. And then the last project, is a wraparound service and training where they will have contractual services focused on mental health providers to offer school-based mental health services. As well as have hourly wages or pay hourly wages for HCPSS staff to design and coordinate these wraparound services. Again, Howard County is requesting the two full \$25,000 allocation. Any questions on Howard County's application? Yes, Laura.

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LAURA TORRES: Hi. So, it's not so much as a question, but just wanted to particularly for item number three. I just want to make sure that they are that the LEA is collaborating with the local behavioral health authority around resources and an awareness campaign. Very often, I know for a fact actually that Howard County does maintain a provider list of resources for the county. And so I don't want them to duplicate the work. It's not even so much about the funding, but just really making sure that in the behavioral health space, the LEAs are closely collaborating with the local behavioral health authorities so that they are not doubling their work and potentially missing out on resources that are that are available.

GIFTY QUARSHIE: Okay, well noted. And yeah, we would definitely pass it on to the school system. Thank you. Any other questions or comments?

GIFTY QUARSHIE: Okay. So, moving on. Kent County Public Schools, they're requesting \$24,72 on various projects. The first is to help address concerns related to school safety, particularly students as they walk to and from school. They stated that currently many students walk to school in the early morning hours and return home after extracurricular activities and obviously, because of the time change it's usually dark when they're coming in in the morning and during night time. And so, the request is to partner with the Chestertown Police Department to provide walk-in escorts for students. They also would like to purchase reflective book bags with reflective tape. They would like to purchase traffic safety signs placed throughout the community where students frequently walk. They would like to require grip and go channelizers to help guide vehicles and pedestrians safely around school areas. They would like to purchase promotional safety items and giveaways for students as a reminder to practice safe walking habits. And finally, they would like to conduct presentations for students crossing the street properly. And just for context, on the request to purchase reflective book bags, with reflective tapes, we did go back to the school system to clarify if they were looking to buy just tapes, you know, the reflected tapes for students, you know, to put or place on their book bags or if they were looking to specifically purchase book bags. And the response we got was that they are looking to specifically purchase these types of book bags for the students. They said there's about 150 students who need them and each bag will cost approximately \$48. Any questions on Kent County's request? Hi Laura. Yes.

LAURA TORRES: Hey again. Sorry. So, I get that. I actually had that same book bag question, So that backpack question. It seems like if you just purchase tape that could definitely go further as far as funds. So, whatever their reason for feeling like maybe the youth also need the backpacks. I think also just the walking partners questions that I had about that is like what training do they have? Who are they? Is it similar to like crossing guard training? You know, I would want to make sure that that those kind of walking guides have some training. I'm assuming they'd also like have the same type of background checks and things that anyone interacting with student in a school system would have. So again, it wasn't necessarily that I was...I'm not saying it's a bad idea at all. I just wanted I'd never heard of a walking partner before, so I just wanted to have a little bit more information on that.

GIFTY QUARSHIE: So, we're happy to take this back, but I believe in the application as far as the walking partner, they said they were partnering with the Chestertown County Police Department. So, it's police officers who will be serving as escorts for the students. So, but if you need further clarification, yes, we can absolutely go back to the school system. And just to be clear, for those two things that you mentioned, is it your request that those particular line items be withheld from consideration until the response? Or would you like that it is reviewed and approved with the rest of the packet, and then the additional information is provided after

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the fact?

LAURA TORRES: Yeah, I think probably the latter. I certainly don't want to hold things up. I do also though think about sustainability in in my working world. that comes up a lot and also being kind of fiscally responsible and certainly the police department the amount that you're going to pay an officer is pretty significant. So, also just you know thinking about are there enough police officers to provide this service and is there any other kind of evidence or any other model that is used because you know it's going to be dark all the time at some point in the school year and I'm assuming this is something that they're going to want long term. So just thinking about how to continue to fiscally support this type of intervention. Police officer hourly rates are pretty steep. So are there volunteers or again kind of like a crossing guard type position that can also be utilized? Not saying it should be held up, but I certainly would recommend providing that feedback.

GIFTY QUARSHIE: Thank you. We will take that back. And just a comment that I want to make as well is that the estimated hourly rate for the police officers who will be providing the walk-in escort for the students as far as Kent County's rate, it's \$48 per hour. When you compare that to some of the jurisdictions. Particularly you know with SRO grant applications that we've seen you are normally in the \$80 to \$90 per hour range. It is also important to note that Kent County of course because of the location, the number of schools some of these challenges are unique to them compared to other jurisdictions. And having administered the grant really since its inception, we encourage jurisdictions to come up with useful propositions for their Safe Schools Fund Grant, particularly since they went from 10.6 million to \$25,000 per jurisdiction. And Kent County has been one of those jurisdictions who have very specific use cases for their allocations. So, we will take your concerns and your comments to them particularly as it relates to probably having volunteers provide this service but of course sustainability, if they do use the police department what the plan is for future years. So, I will take that, absolutely. I'll take that back to them.

LAURA TORRES: Yeah. Thank you. And again, I think a crossing guard makes like \$18 an hour. So, that that's what I'm thinking about. And of course, the function of this is not nearly the same as an SRO, you know, as an as an SRO officer. So, I just know that statewide budgets are being cut and so I just want to be sure that, that we are thinking of alternatives that can also fill this need.

GIFTY QUARSHIE: Well, thank you. All right, let's see. So, the next request is from Montgomery County Public Schools. they are requesting to use their '26 allocation to strengthen the district's capacity to prevent and respond to emergencies by supporting deescalation training through the crisis prevention institute and management of aggressive behavior training. the training program is itemized. The CPI certification train the trainer model. They will have two staff members participate. the CPI recertification training. They will have one staff member take part in that training. And then the last training for management of aggressive behavior will be another Train-the-trainer model and they will have up to five staff members certified in that training. The request is for the full \$25,000 allocation.

The next application is from St. Mary's County Public Schools. They're requesting to use their '26 allocation for four different projects. First one is to provide online professional development training to behavioral health staff in neurobiology to gain additional education and skills to support student mental and behavioral health. And they're also looking to purchase behavioral health providers counseling instruction materials to support direct student mental health intervention. They're looking to contract a keynote speaker for the annual mental and

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behavioral health fair, which brings together community agencies and supports mental and behavioral health with students, families, and staff. And finally, they're looking to purchase materials for the annual mental health fair to distribute to students and families. Again, St. Mary's County's request is \$25,000. Any questions on that? Hi, Laura.

LAURA TORRES: Hi. This is my last question, I promise. Can you tell that that we've had a lot of cuts at BHA and MDH this last fiscal year? So, the only thing I would call out there is for their annual conference, they have an honorarium of \$10,000 for the keynote speaker. And so, I think a lot of the other things they're doing like the materials and all of that is really, really great. And I'm just wondering what keynote they are getting that is requiring a \$10,000 honorarium. And again, I'm not saying I wouldn't push this through, but you know, if you think about five half of that going actually to students and families with that information, that can have a very big impact and so a one-time keynote, I'm just wondering if that's the best way to spend the funds. So, okay, just putting it out there.

GIFTY QUARSHIE: Okay. Are you looking for anything specifically in terms of whether they have put out any solicitations for this keynote speaker? And if they have, would you like a copy of that?

LAURA TORRES: I mean, I'm not saying I need a copy of it, but I do think yes, is it a solicitation or do they have someone that they're asking? And or that they have in mind and if so, what is the reason for that? You know, why is it that particular person? Generally, the keynote doesn't even attend the whole day, right? So, depending on the situation. So, as you can tell, if you want to save money, just give me a call. But that's how I'm thinking about it. Again, I'd much rather see that that money go out to students and families than be given to someone and just am wondering what the value of a \$10,000 speaker is. This is not like for research or data or anything like that. It's just my two cents.

KARL POTHIER: I actually if I could just provide a comment on that too. First of all, I agree with Laura. I glad you flagged it. It strikes me as a little too far away when it comes to the purpose of the funds. I mean these are public funds. All these respective jurisdictions are employing them in ways that it appears directly impacts school safety and I realize at some point you know there's things that get sort of tangentially related to the fundamental purpose but this seems really kind of gratuitous. I mean, it's just \$10,000 for someone to come and speak for 30 minutes or whatever. Just, I mean, these are public funds and it just strikes me as not particularly appropriate. I'm not saying it wouldn't be effective. Perhaps it would be depending on who it is and all that, but I do think it's an awful lot of money for something of this sort, given the fact that, you know, these are grant funds, these are public funds. So, that's all, that's my two cents.

GIFTY QUARSHIE: Yeah. No, thank you. That that's well noted. So, again, I will ask the Subcabinet, would you like to, for consideration when we get to the end, to review St. Mary's application sans or less than \$10,000, which means that the request would only be for \$15,000 if that's what ends up being approved. Or would it be to consider the full application as is and grant a contingent approval once the information for the \$10,000 is received. So, I will put that out there for consideration.

KARL POTHIER: Let me give let me just one thought that comes to mind though the you know as far as who the speaker is things like that I'm not sure we really want to get into that because that gets into a much more subjective area where someone may say that's a good idea

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and someone may know so that's not really a good idea. So, I mean I it's more—I just want to clarify that I from my perspective, it kind of doesn't matter who it is. Or what they're going to say in as much as I'm not really sure that this is an appropriate allocation or use of these kinds of funds, under the circumstances of what other alternatives might exist. If you all understand what I'm trying to say. Alright, thank you.

MARY GABLE: I'm just going to say when we complete all of this, I am going to go back to each of the ones that Laura brought up and give everyone an opportunity, and including Laura and Karl. Laura just said she agreed with your point. We'll go back and revisit as to whether you want to move forward, pull it out. So, you have time to think about it after we get see all of them.

GIFTY QUARSHIE: Okay, good. So, for the record, I have pulled aside Kent County's and St. Mary's County's application from the ones that we have reviewed so far so that we can grant them the individual application approval based on what the Subcabinet decides in the end. Okay. So, moving on, the next request is from Talbot County Public Schools. They are requesting to use their Safe Schools Fund Grant allocation to purchase and update the automated external defibrillators at four of its schools as well as purchase and update the accessories and supplies needed. And the breakdown for the AED purchases and all of the accessories are provided. The total request is \$24,999, which is essentially the \$25,000. Any questions on this one?

All right. And the next request is from Washington County Public Schools. They are requesting to use their \$25,000 allocation across three interconnected categories which includes professional development, community engagement, and wraparound services and direct mental health resources. We have itemized the three different categories on the overview document that is provided. So, the first one is the professional development piece. The funding will be used for additional pay for behavioral support staff for participating in professional development training. They will also contract speakers for professional development for external experts to provide training to staff on topics such as deescalation skills, behavioral health strategies, and social emotional learning interventions. They also have the registration costs for school administrators to attend in-state or virtual conferences as well as cost for teachers and staff to attend training on social-emotional learning and interventions. They're also looking to use part of their funding for community engagement and wrap-around services which includes, contracted therapy for substance abuse. As well as community transport program that they've had for a few years now to provide transportation for students to access necessary community mental health appointments to remove critical access barriers. And the last one is direct mental health resources and materials. They're looking to purchase therapeutic materials, supplies, new curricula, and intervention materials to support effective evidence-based services as well as purchase other supplies and materials needed to host the annual mental health fair that they do every year. The total request again is \$25,000. Any questions on this one?

All right, the second to last application is from Wicomico County. They are requesting the full \$25,000 on five different projects. First one is to purchase six multi-unit chargers, the charging stations I should say. These charging stations can charge up to six radios at a time. They would also like to purchase 50 Motorola portable radio batteries. They would like to purchase one Motorola radio to enhance communication and improve safety within schools. They would like to purchase five handheld metal detectors. And finally, they like to purchase signage for physical security of the county school sites. Any questions on Wicomico County's application? And the last application is from Worcester County. They are requesting to use the allocation for two main objectives that tie directly to its restart program at the Worcester Technical High

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School, which serves students demonstrating tier three behaviors who have not been successful with Tier 1 and tier 2 interventions at their home schools. So, the funds will be used to strengthen school personnel's capacity to deescalate situations and respond to behaviors of concern. which includes training and coaching for the restart staff and also training on deescalation for school and central office administration. The second request is to deliver enhanced school-based behavioral health and wraparound services for students in the restart program which includes music therapy group sessions. They will provide 45-minute group therapy sessions for restart program students during the 2025-2026 school year. And with that, we come to the end of all of the applications. Any questions on the Worcester County application?

MARY GABLE: All right. Thank you, Gifty, for that thorough review, and I appreciate going through each one of them, succinctly so we know what we're taking a look at. There were questions on three of the applications. There was Howard, Kent, and St. Mary's. We can vote on 16 of them and approve them and then we can take a look at each of Howard, Kent, and St. Mary's separately and just quickly. So, do I have a motion to approve 16 of the applications? Not including right now, doesn't mean we won't approve them, but approving all but Howard, Kent, and St. Mary's. Looking for a motion to...

CAROL BEATTY: I'll make that motion.

MARY GABLE: Thank you, Carol. And a second?

LAURA TORRES: I second.

MARY GABLE: Laura. All in favor? Is there a discussion? Sorry, trying to keep my—all in favor say Aye, raise your hand.

All: Aye. (raises hands)

MARY GABLE: Any opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes. So, we have approved 16 of the applications. So, now let's take them one at a time. Thank you for taking a look at the 16. First, there were questions about Howard County and I think the question in particular was about their collab about their creating an app with resources to hire to put some funding towards that—I don't have it in front of me. I think it was maybe 3500ish.

GIFTY QUARSHIE: Right. It was the third project. Yes, for 3500.

MARY GABLE: Thank you. And the question was, is there collaboration with the local behavioral health authority? Is there any... let's take a motion. Is there a motion to approve this application?

ARABIA DAVIS: Motion to approve.

MARY GABLE: Is there... Who was that? I'm sorry.

ARABIA DAVIS: Oh right, Davis. Thank you.

MARY GABLE: Is there a second?

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LAURA TORRES: I second.

MARY GABLE: Thank you, Laura. So, now it's time for discussion. Is there a discussion regarding this application? Do we want to move the application forward with Gifty going to Howard County and raising the question of making sure that there's collaboration with the local behavioral health authority? That's one option. Second option is to not approve that piece. And a third option is to not approve the whole application at this time. Any discussion to that effect?

LAURA TORRES: So, I'm fine with moving it forward. Like I don't have any objection to it. I just wanted to make sure that we're ensuring that all of the resources that exist within the state are being utilized because it, you know, it's such challenging work and that there isn't any duplication of work being done. So, as long as that conversation happens, I don't have an objection to moving it forward. I think the more resources we can give, the better in regards to behavioral health.

MARY GABLE: Okay, great. Thank you, Laura. Any other comments? So, we do have a motion and a second to move that application forward. If there's no more discussion, and we did hear from Laura who brought up the issue, all in favor say aye. Raise your hand.

All: Aye. (raised hands)

MARY GABLE: I heard I saw two heard from three a third. I want to make sure that we have... Okay, so it looked like maybe three in favor.

CAROL BEATTY: Karl...

MARY GABLE: I'm sorry.

CAROL BEATTY: I think Karl is raising his hand.

MARY GABLE: Karl? And he wasn't before. Okay, thanks Karl. Any opposition? Any abstentions? Thank you. Then the motion passes to approve Howard counties with understanding and Gifty that you'll provide the information to Howard County that Laura brought up. Second one is Kent. There was a question. There are some students, that it given the location... I think there were two questions. One is their plan to purchase 150 reflective backpacks. The other question was rather than the backpack what about getting for the students who have those backpacks a strip that would be put on them that would be reflective? And the second question was the—I forget what it was... walking partners. And should that be a crossing guard? Should that be come from the Kent County Police Department or crossing guards at \$25, at excuse me at I think it was \$48 an hour. And a question came up about crossing guards being less expensive. I think Laura, you also brought up about making sure they have background checks and so on. If they are using the police department, I'm sure that those background checks go along with their responsibility. So, we can do it the same way. Do you—so right now I guess even before we do a vote...no I think we can do a vote; I mean excuse me a motion and then we can have discussion. So, is there a motion to approve Kent County's application?

LAURA TORRES: So, so I would move to approve it with the piece that they explore for

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future years. Other options for walkers, whatever they're called, protective walkers, I forget. Walking partners. I read a walking partners.

MARY GABLE: Walking partners.

LARUA TORRES: I, I and again, I just think it would be good for them even if nothing pans out to say these are some of the options that we looked into during the year and you know this is still the best thing. I just want to ensure again that we're being fiscally irresponsible.

MARY GABLE: Absolutely.

LAURA TORRES: And the other thing that I want to note is that not everyone has a good response to law enforcement. So, there may be youth that are not particularly comfortable around law enforcement. They tend to have weapons. They tend to be male and they I don't know if they're reflective of the community. So, you know, as far as racially and ethnically, and so that's the other thing, like honestly, I know many kids who would be like, I will rather walk in the dark in the middle of the street by myself than walk to school with a police officer. So, it's not even about like that fiscal responsibility. It's also about is that the best choice for students to be kind of escorted to school by a police officer. So just thinking about it from that other perspective. So, so I guess I'll say that's where I'm at for this year. I don't want to hold it up because I don't want kids walking to and from school in the dark. But it'd be interested to hear if other people have other thoughts about it.

MARY GABLE: So, I so that I just want to say in making a motion, the motion can be made, and then discussion and then the vote can be to not approve it. So, or approve it with... but I think Laura has brought up her points of concern. Is there any other discussion, any other concern?

JEANEEN JOHNSON: Before we do that, I just want to be clear about what Miss Torres' motion is and then we have to have a second before we move to the discussion. So, is your motion to approve Kent County's application with the provision that they explore future options for walking partners?

LAURA TORRES: Yes.

JEANEEN JOHNSON: Okay. Then, the next step would be to have a second.

ARABIA DAVIS: Second. Thank you, Arabia. Any discussion?

MARY GABLE: Okay. So, Jeaneen, help or Laura, help. There is a motion to approve the Kent County application with an expectation that they explore other options. Is it exactly Jeaneen? How did you say that? Explore other options.

JEANEEN JOHNSON: Suggestion. A suggestion to explore future options for walking partners.

MARY GABLE: Suggestion to explore future options for walking partners. That's the motion. It's been seconded. There's no further discussion. All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

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MARY GABLE: Any opposition? Any abstentions? Okay.

JEANEEN JOHNSON: I'm sorry. I think what we did the last time at this I think we only I only saw two in favor. I think it was Miss Beatty and Miss Davis. Did I see Miss Torres also? So that's three. There was three.

LAURA TORRES: Okay. So, I'm sorry. So, I approved it. I didn't see. Is that what you were asking?

JEANEEN JOHNSON: No. No. I just wanted to make sure I was having an accurate count of all those in favor just to make sure that we have the majority. Okay. Wait, Karl is in too.

KARL POTHIER: So, I am I am in as well. Yes.

JEANEEN JOHNSON: All right. So, we have four in favor. There was no opposition. So, the motion carries. Thank you.

MARY GABLE: Thanks Jeaneen. I appreciate it. Thank you, Laura. And so, the third one is St. Mary's and that was the question about \$10,000 for the keynote. And obviously discussion about the \$10,000 whether it's for the keynote. The stipend whether there's travel that's part of that we don't know that information. But the identification of \$10,000, both Laura and Karl had questions and Gifty.

GIFTY QUARSHIE: Yes, I'm sorry. for Kent County, I thought there were two comments. the first one that we went through, but also the book bags, it should there be a motion to approve that request as presented or was there a request for additional information?

JEANEEN JOHNSON: So, if we are going to add that suggestion, we'd have to move to amend the motion and then we'd have to have a second to amend the motion. Then we'd have to vote on the motion to amend.

MARY GABLE: So, is there a motion to amend?

LAURA TORRES: I move to amend.

MARY GABLE: Is there a second? A second. Is there any discuss... so, this motion is to amend. Amend. This is just to amend, right, Jeaneen?

JEANEEN JOHNSON: So, this is the motion. This is a motion to amend the motion to approve Kent County's application with the suggestion to explore future options for walking partners. So, this is just the motion to amend. So, it's been moved by Miss Torres. Motion to amend by Miss Torres. It's been seconded by Miss Davis. Right.

MARY GABLE: Any discussion? All in favor to amend the motion as Jeaneen described? Okay we have Arabia, Karl, Laura, Carol. Okay. So, you have a motion and that has been voted upon. Any opposed? I'm sorry. Any abstention? All right. So now is there a motion on what be how you want to amend it? And that would be something related to the reflective tape.

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JEANEEN JOHNSON: Yes. So, I'm not sure about that one. The... I think that was Miss Torres' suggestion. So, you'll have to make the motion with that suggestion. So, this is going to be two-part right? So, one suggestion related to the future options for the walking partners and then a second suggestion related to either the tape or the book bags. I'm not sure.

LAURA TORRES: So, I wasn't actually suggesting that the book bag, the backpack shouldn't be approved. I just, again, just putting it out there for fiscal purposes. Like maybe the youth still do need the backpacks? I don't, I'm not sure. But I just wasn't clear why the tape wasn't an option. I don't want to make a big deal out of it. I'm certainly in support of kids getting backpacks. And it's not a huge a huge expense. So, I'm okay with that piece.

MARY GABLE: I think some of the concern might be it's then you're putting tape on the students' backpack, which is their personal backpack. If you give them a backpack. I mean, that might be their thinking, but I don't want to I can't speak for them, but I think I don't know. So, Laura, you're saying you wanted to call attention to it but not make it part of the motion. Is that what I'm hearing, Laura? Thank you.

JEANEEN JOHNSON: Okay. But, but at this point, we move to amend that motion. So, we don't have a motion on to approve. So, we'd have to do a motion to... Okay, just so that I am clear and I understand. We did a motion to amend the motion to approve the Kent County's application. That motion passed. So now the motion to approve Kent counties with the suggestion is where we are because we're to amend that. So, I believe if there is not a motion to approve the Kent County's application with the suggestion to with the suggestion to explore future options for walking partners. I believe that that motion would stand if we are not moving to amend it. I mean, if we're not amending it.

LAURA TORRES: On my end, I don't feel like it needs to be amended.

MARY GABLE: Do you need a motion, Jeaneen, to not amend now? Is that what you're saying?

JEANEEN JOHNSON: I believe... I'm not... I believe that we made a motion to amend the motion to approve. But at this point, we are not amending that motion. So, I believe that motion still stands since we're not amending it. So, I do not believe we need to have a motion to withdraw the motion to amend. I think we're fine.

MARY GABLE: Okay, we'll do what you tell us. Thank you.

JEANEEN JOHNSON: A little confusing. Sorry about that. Just had to think it through.

MARY GABLE: Yeah, I appreciate that. Thank you, Jeaneen. Thank you, Laura. So, we are good now with Kent and we can move to St. Mary's. St. Mary's, is I think not. Yes. The St. Mary's is the concern about \$10,000 for the keynote. And is there any conversation or a recommendation for a motion related to the \$10,000, use of \$10,000 for the keynote for St. Mary's County.

ARABIA DAVIS: I'll put a motion up and that is to approve the application with the exception of the funding for the keynote speaker. So, to deduct the \$10,000, but to move forward with the remainder of the projects being requested.

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MARY GABLE: Thank you. Is there a second to that motion?

CAROL BEATTY: I'll second it.

MARY GABLE: That was Carol, right, Carol? Thank you. Okay. Any discussion?

CAROL EBATTY: Yeah, I know I seconded this, but I do have a question. Will the school system be able to come back with an additional request for the \$10,000?

GIFTY QUARSHIE: Yes. So, they will have the opportunity to come up with a different project for the \$10,000 and we would have to submit that to the Subcabinet for approval at your next meeting.

MARY GABLE: So, what you're saying, Gifty and Carol, is that the motion could be to approve everything with the exception of the \$10,000. So, it' be taking \$10,000 off their application and they and move the that forward and we they could come back either with the same thing perhaps and more information or they could come back with something different. That would be up to them, but it would have to come to the Subcabinet.

GIFTY QUARSHIE: That's correct.

MARY GABLE: Great. All right. Thank you. Any further discussion? Jeaneen?

JEANEEN JOHNSON: I just want to make sure that we are clear on what we're voting for. So, the vote is a motion to approve St. Mary county's application minus the \$10,000 for the keynote speaker.

MARY GABLE: Correct. Okay. Any discussion? All those in favor of approving the motion that Arabia said and Jeaneen said, which is approve the application minus the \$10,000 for the speaker. All those in favor of that motion say aye. Karl is a yes. Arabia, Carol, Laura, and Karl. So, we— that motion passes. So, Kent County's application is approved with the exception of the \$10,000 and they can—Gifty can explain that they can come back at a later time next month with that. So, so I think with that, that we have addressed all 19 of the applications. Thank you very much for your thought, for Gifty for putting it all together and explaining it so clearly. Thank you. And for the discussion and the questions and the thoughtful application of our approval and recommendations to the local school systems.

Closing Comments

MARY GABLE: So, I think that at this point we have accomplished everything that was on the agenda. I appreciate that. Thank you, Kim, for your review. The meeting dates are before you. The next meeting will be February 9th. It will be virtual and you can see virtual, in-person, in-person and virtual. You can see the dates. So, do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting today?

ARABIA DAVIS: Motion to adjourn the meeting today.

MARY GABLE: Thank you, Arabia. And do I have a second?

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KARL POTHIER: Second.

MARY GABLE: Karl seconds the motion. All in favor. Opposed or abstained? I think we are good. Thank you for your conversation and thoughtful application and review of the applications. I think it's important. I know it takes time. And thank you, Kim, for going through the report because it certainly reflects the incredible work of the of the Maryland Center for School Safety. So, thank you all. Have a great day and a very happy Thanksgiving and we will see you at our next meeting. Take care everyone. Thank you Jeaneen. Thanks. And Gifty and Kim. Thank you all.

JEANEEN JOHNSON: Thank you. Good job.

MARY GABLE: Thanks. Bye.

J. DINO PIGNATARO: Take care all. Thanks.