

MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY  
School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

August 11, 2025

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### Welcome of the Subcabinet

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

AARON CHIUSANO: We are live and recording.

MARY GABLE: Okay. Thank you very much. Ms. Johnson, can you please confirm that we have a quorum?

JEANEEN JOHNSON: We do have a quorum.

MARY GABLE: Thank you very much. The last meeting of the Subcabinet was in May. That meeting was recorded and that recording is available on the website. As such, there will be no meeting minutes to be approved. So at this time is there a motion to accept the agenda which is before you on the screen? Motion?

CAROL BEATTY: Motion.

MARY GABLE: Thank you. Do we have a second?

MARIA BALDRIDGE: Second.

Any discussion? All in favor? We have the paper online. Thank you. We have some members of the cabinet that are with us virtually today. Welcome. Any opposed? Abstentions? Motion passes. We will move forward at this time. Welcome Kate Bryan for the Maryland Center for School Safety updates.

### Executive Director Updates

KATE BRYAN: Great. Thank you. Thank you all for being here. We really appreciate it. So I'm just going to run through some of the high level things that have been happening, with the exception of some of the programs we're going to talk about as we move through the agenda. So, we're incredibly honored that in our at our conference in July, we presented Corporal Kieran Harrison, the school resource officer of the year. So, were very excited. we had him, we surprised him with his fiancé and his daughter and his command staff and it was just it was very exciting. So he's been with Howard County Police Department for nine and a half years and he's currently assigned at Howard High School. So that was very exciting for all of us. As we move forward into our next school year, we're also going to be doing a School Resource Officer of the Year again for next year, but we're also going to be identifying a School Security Employee of the Year for the conference, for next year. So, both of those are both very exciting. As you can see up on the screen, for the 2025 calendar year. So we do this a little differently for these numbers, because of the training—the way the training works. But we've trained this school year to date 47 school resource officers, and those are new trainees. And we've trained 108 school security employees. Again, those are new trainees. The team is actually in southern Maryland, correct? Today, training and I don't remember the number in the class right now, but 19 at the moment.

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RONALD PIERCE: 19.

KATE BRYAN: So, we'll have 19 more by Friday of this week. So, also very exciting. And I think we talked about this in our February meeting and again in our May meeting, but the team put together in-service training for all of our trainees. And so that was completed in March of last year and we trained 1,229 school resource officers and SSSE school security employees in the in-service training. We'll be doing that again this year. We expect that number to obviously be higher because we'll include all of the already trained SRO as well as the ones we trained this year. So that number that 1,229 will probably go up a little bit this year. Next slide.

So, some updates. Let's see for Safe Schools Maryland. So, Safe Schools Maryland, our anonymous reporting system for this the calendar, sorry, the school year. So, that's July 1 to June 30th. We've had, 254 tips. I'll just give you the top three categories. We're continuing to see general school complaints and school accountability is the top tip coming in. We had about 166 of those. And then these are three separate but assault or intent to harm others, planned school attack and bullying or cyber bullying. We had 126, 101 and 100 respectively. so you know, we're continuing to see an increase in our tips year after year. We actually did some data analysis. We had an intern here over the school year helping us with some tipline data analysis and our numbers the first six years of the tip line are pretty consistent with the ramp up that Colorado saw. So when Colorado launched their tip line the first six years, there was sort of a slow progression of tips coming in over those six years and then it ramped up to where they are now, which if we get to 10,000 a year, that would be pretty interesting. but we'll have to see. Handle with Care. So, Handle with Care is meeting quarterly with the local Handle with Care representatives. They're also going to be meeting so they're continuing their meetings. Their next meeting is next week. So that's with Don Corbin with Department of Education as well as Britt Florey with our team. So they are meeting with those local Handle with Care representatives to ensure that we can eventually get all 24 jurisdictions to be participating in Handle with Care. we're working on the school leadership school safety leadership academy. We ran the pilot last year. We learned a lot from that pilot. we'll be implementing and relaunching that training program again for next year. And then we're continuing to do our threat assessment work. We've been doing some one-on-one technical assistance with some of our school systems throughout the state. We're partnering in our attempt to enhance their protective proactive measures facilitating early intervention and promoting safe learning environments for our schools. So, any questions on our current programs that we're running? Anything you're interested in, like to hear about more?

MARY GABLE: I have a question. the SRO and the school security employees, what is the balance in numbers? You have the numbers of those who were trained 47 and 108.

KATE BRYAN: That's for last year...

MARY GABLE: But those are the ones who were trained last year. What's the overall count?

KATE BRYAN: So I'm gonna forget the SRO count for last year, but I think the total SRO count was about 430 Jeyan. Am I close?

JEYAN JEBARAJ: Yeah. So 445 is the number of SROs in state.

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KATE BRYAN: And then the number of SSEs, which is not a public report. We keep that. We don't publicize that. that's about a little over a thousand of them. I might be overshooting that number.

MARY GABLE: I was just curious.

KATE BRYAN: Yeah. And I it's a good I like to bring that point up a lot, right? Because I think there is a perception that there is an SRO in every public school in the state. So 1425 public schools, there's an SRO in every one. That is not the case. Right? There are 400 SRO's. There's about 280ish schools that have an assigned SRO. So the number is not as high as everyone assumes. A lot of those school systems are going with supplementing that those teams with security personnel.

MARY GABLE: So the important thing is that we have them and but there are another large group of security individuals in schools hired by the local school system.

KATE BRYAN: That is correct. Yeah.

MARY GABLE: Thanks.

KATE BRYAN: Absolutely.

CAROL BEATTY: Kate, can you go to...Yeah. Okay. So on the tip line you... What was the number one...

KATE BRYAN: Complaint? Yeah. so it's general school complaint or school accountability. So, concerns about the way the school is implementing policy or, you know, a particular teacher didn't follow a certain protocol. so it it's a really wide it's a big category which is why it gets a lot of tips and the categories are selected by the tipster, right? So, you know, if they don't find a category that maybe fits exactly with what their tip is, they a lot of times pick that. Okay. Thank you. And we have a lot of those also.

MARY GABLE: We should connect with Brad who presented at the conference is one who deals with the same kinds of complaints. Yes we have Laura Torres online who raised her hand.

LAURA TORRES: Yeah. Hi thanks. I was just wondering if you could provide a little bit more detail about what the SRO training consists of.

RONALD PIERCE: Sure. Be glad to Ron Pierce, regional manager. I'm also the one that takes care of training and certification for us. So, it began as there were some mandates in the safe to learn act. about five different categories of things that were required to be taught in a model SRO training program that we had to develop and then run past MPCTC the Maryland police training commission get approved by them and that had to be given to before the see was the 19-20 school year had to be given to all the staff all the SSSE and all the SRO who work in schools in the state of Maryland. we managed to do that through a lot of effort and about I think almost 20 different classes. But the first iteration was 40 hours and included training on restorative practices, trauma-informed interventions, and implicit

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bias was one of the classes that was required. and we had other courses on initially on single officer response to active threats which was something the commission asked us to put in initially. and a number of other classes on getting into the classroom interactions with juveniles. school law was one of the ones of the courses that was required. And after that initial 2019 push to get all the SRO's trained. We went back because the class has to be recertified every 3 years. The latest iteration was just done just launched this year. It's now 54 hours. So it's increased in size. We have many of the same courses, but we've actually added to some of them to make them just from being awareness level to actually practitioner level. restorative practice is one of those classes. So, it's a full day. It's enabling them to participate in circles and those types of things when they go to their schools. We want them to be part of that. And official interactions with juveniles is another one we've fleshed out along with de-escalation was one of the ones that we've lengthened to add some other some other tactics that would help them in the in the hallways and in the cafeteria deal with some of the kids. And it's really just about educating them about the environment, about how children think, about how they think differently than adults do. and then how to deal with that in that kind of environment within the legal boundaries that they have. one of the main things we push is they have no role in discipline. I think that's really important. We stress that over and over again. They're not school administrators. They're not school staff. That's the school's job. they're not to deal with those types of things really in an official capacity. that's really enough for the school to do. They're only there they use their authority when this when a crime has occurred. And there can be some gray areas. So we go over what those are, what's a crime and what's not a crime. so they know what to do in certain situations that are going to come up. Hope that helps.

LAURA TORRES: No, that's very helpful. Thank you so much.

KATE BRYAN: And following the meeting, I will share with you. So on our website, we actually have a document that describes each of the courses that are part of the training academy. So I'll send that to you after this meeting.

RONALD PIERCE: I was going to mention too, Kate, to your numbers. So I just went back real quick and added. So since inception, we've trained 804 SRO's and we've trained 1169 SSEs. So that's since 2019.

MARY GABLE: That's a lot of training.

KATE BRYAN: And as a reminder, training by six staff. I think that that's really important though that folks hear, because there is, as you were saying, thinking, but you know, there's as a former practitioner in school, I was very appreciative of having an SRO. Some get concerned, but I think your message is consistent that they are not part of the discipline.

RONALD PIERCE: It's not what they're there for although they are a presence in the school, right? And they generally have really good relationships with kids. That's we work a lot on how to build those kinds of relationships and trust and how to speak to kids and be supportive. Yeah. And because that's in some studies that I've read, it's really important in being able to prevent school violence. Because if someone trusts an officer SRO well enough to tell them about something they see as a problem, they think could be a problem. That's how in 30% of cases where they avert some kind of school violence, those that was the reason was because the SRO were there and somebody trusted enough to tell them.

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MARY GABLE: Good point. Thank you. All right, we're good. Anything else? Okay, here we go. We will go to Ms. McNeil.

### **PREpare 2025**

JESIKA MCNEIL: Good morning, everyone. I'm Jessica McNeel and I'm the co-chair of our PREpare conference that we hold on an annual basis. And I just wanted to go over this year's conference and provide you all with some information. In each of your packets, you will receive a copy of our brochure from the conference. It just gives you kind of an overview of the event itself, some of our speakers and different activities we had going on. For this year's conference, we had over 620 people register and 480 in attendance. We did see a lot of cancellations for the conference just people calling in due to budget constraints and personnel constraints. So, that did affect our numbers somewhat. We asked our presenters to reflect on the evolution of school safety both personally and professionally over the last 25 years since the Columbine tragedies. We had some really great speakers this year and presenters which included Matt Schachster who did a presentation of turning pain into purpose when he lost his son who was murdered during the Parkland tragedy. We also had Tim and Tamia Woods who did presentation on cyber enticements and its dangers. They lost their only child to suicide who's a victim of extortion. We had Ian Lopez who did lessons learned in lockdown. And that session talked about the importance of involving the stakeholders and leaders in drills and building the relationship between the emergency management personnel. We also had Justin Safer who talked about the Wooten High School manifesto threat of affliction. That was about the 129 page manifesto written by a Montgomery County student. And they went through just the session examine the intervention methods that were used investigation the criminal case and subsequent prosecution. So that just gives you just three just a few of the highlighted sessions that we had for this year's conference.

In addition to that, we had some new offerings this year which Kate talked about. The SRO of the year, which we're very excited about, which we had over 24 nominees. People nominated for SRO of the year which was from 16 different organizations within 12 jurisdictions within the state. The process involved two members of our training staff as well as three members of our advisory board who took part of the evaluation process to pick the person who was awarded that. In addition to that, we also offer Stop the Bleed training during our conference. We had four sessions of Stop the Bleed training for all school personnel, and we had over 139 people school personnel that were actually trained and certified as Stop the Bleed at the conference. So we thought that was very successful as well. I look forward to having hopefully back again next year. In addition to that we had our conference approved for continuing education and professional development credits. We're approved for in-service hours through MPCTC for law enforcement. We're also approved for professional development hours for school psychologists through NASP. And we're approved for continuing education hours through the National Board of Certified Counselors. So they were new this year. It's the first year that were able to get our any of our sessions approved for that. We do still run into challenges with the National Association of Social Workers and getting some approval credits for them social workers who are coming to the conference to get continuing education credits. We think that we may have a way around that. We're exploring opportunities and possibly partnering with Anne Arundel County who is a NASW approved provider within the State of Maryland. So, we are going to be beginning conversations with them to see if we can somehow work with them to get credits offered for social workers as well next year.