

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

## School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

February 13, 2023

<b>1. Subcabinet Items Welcome of the Subcabinet – Chair, Mr. Mohammed Choudhury</b>	
a. Declaration of quorum .....	2
b. Additions to the Agenda .....	2
<b>2. Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS)</b>	
a. Where We Were .....	2
b. Where We Are .....	3
c. Where We Are Going .....	3
<b>3. Subcabinet Items</b>	
a. Legislative Update .....	5
b. Executive Director Evaluation Subcommittee .....	9
c. Future Standing Agenda Items .....	11
<b>4. Closing Items</b>	
a. 2023 Dates .....	11
i. May 8, 2023	
ii. August 14, 2023	
iii. October 2023 - as needed for Grant approvals	
iv. November 13, 2023	
b. Adjournment .....	12

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

## School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

February 13, 2023

### 1. Subcabinet Items Welcome of the Subcabinet –

Chair, Mr. Mohammed Choudhury

#### a. Declaration of quorum

Sylvia Lawson: Okay, at this time, Mr. Dunklow, please confirm that we have a quorum.

Alan Dunklow: I believe we do.

Sylvia Lawson: Okay, thank you. The last meeting of the subcabinet was in November. The November meeting was recorded, and therefore it is available on the MCSS website. As such, there is no need to review the minutes for this meeting, for the minutes to be approved. And with that, does anyone have any additions for this meeting? Okay, seeing none, I would like to go ahead and proceed with the agenda, starting with the Maryland Center for School Safety. I think you're muted, Kate. There we go.

#### b. Additions to the Agenda

Kate Bryan: How's that?

Sylvia Lawson: Yes.

Kate Bryan: So, I apologize, I was just on a Google meet, so I have to switch mics when I do that. Okay, good morning. Thank you all for coming today. We really appreciate you being here. Dr. Lawson, it's lovely to see you. I hope everybody enjoyed the game last night and didn't stay up too late, but let's get started. So, I'm going to turn it over to Deputy Director, Pignataro, who's going to go through an overview of where MCSS started. Basically, he's going to cover the "Where We Were section."

### 2. Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS)

#### a. Where We Were

Joseph Dino Pignataro: Good morning, everybody. The Center MCSS was established in 2013, under Chapter 372, after the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. At that time, we were an independent unit under the state government. At that time, assigned under Maryland State Police. Executive Director was Mr. Clark, who at the time made a governing board of various entities above us to give direction. The purpose of developing interagency collaboration of school safety with all our local education partners and a repository of school safety, best practices, and resources, and at that time, The Center had an annual budget of \$500,000. In 2015, we added one extra position, and that position was a training administrator to provide training and support to the local education agencies for

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

## School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

February 13, 2023

emergency preparedness and planning.

Unfortunately, after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas incident in Florida in 2018, and the tragic incident in Great Mills High School, here in St. Mary's County, in March of 2018, the legislature created the Safe to Learn Act under Chapter 30. What that did for the Maryland Center of School Safety is, it increased the budget and staffing. It gave mandates for the training of school resource officers, school security employees, and school safety coordinators and it gave us definitions of all of those, which was never done before. It provided grant funds for school safety efforts. Defined MCSS as an independent agency now moved under the Maryland State Department of Education. And it established a Subcabinet, yourselves, and Advisory Board to assist you with an expanded membership. And the impact on the local education agencies, now they have to produce annual data submissions for required reports. They have to provide emergency plans and annual summaries of those plans. They had to designate a School Safety Coordinator and a Mental Health Coordinator. And it defined other preparedness efforts that they had to undertake.

The Center by Law is required to be housed at the Maryland Coordination Analysis Center, also commonly referred to as MCAC, and at the office where I am sitting at Bowie State University. Additionally, the Center has regional personnel, and we've established offices, and working spaces at various venues in Western Maryland, Eastern Maryland, Northern Maryland, and the National Capital Region. Any questions?

[05:00]

**b. Where We Are**

**c. Where We Are Going**

Kate Bryan: All right, so that's a little background on where we came from. So, let's talk a little bit about where we are now. Next slide. Thank you. So, from a Governance Structure perspective, the Safe to Learn Act established a new governing board for the Maryland Center for School Safety, and that's the School Safety Subcabinet, this group. So, it's a group of six individuals. So, it's the Superintendent of the Department of Education, the Superintendent of the Maryland State Police, the Secretary of Disabilities, the Secretary of Health, and the Executive Director of the Interagency Commission on Public School Construction, as well as the Attorney General's Office. And all of those individuals are eligible to have designees that represent them. So, we do, like we do today, have Dr. Lawson. We, from time to time, have designees that represent the department heads. So the Advisory Board is a board of 24 different members. They cross public and private school representatives. They also include a student. They include law enforcement representatives. They include several state agency representatives and department heads, including juvenile services and human services. The Advisory Board makes

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

## School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

**February 13, 2023**

recommendations to the Subcabinet at the Subcabinet's request. They also support MCSS with various initiatives that we have identifying any best practices and providing any advice or recommendation for our programs as we make implementation efforts. The School Safety Subcabinet, although is not in the Safe to Learn Act. The Student Focus Group is a group that was established by MCSS back in 2020, so there are 19 individuals originally. We are now, I think it's 37 individuals and those students provide us, again, public and private school students, provide us with their student perspective on many of our initiatives at MCSS. And then finally, we have the Maryland Center for School Safety. So, our agency is tasked with a lot of responsibilities in the read-ahead materials you received. There's a pretty detailed list of all the responsibilities of the Subcabinet, MCSS as well as our local education agencies. And our job is to provide assistance to you all as well as implement any of your priorities.

Next slide. So the School Safety Subcabinet, the School Safety Subcabinet has some very specific responsibilities in your read-ahead materials. We're looking at pages four through six. So, you have administrative responsibilities, you have regulatory responsibilities. So, there are currently five regulations in COMAR that are the School Safety Subcabinet Regulations. There are two of those regulations that are currently under revision and out for public comment. The Subcabinet was required in 2018 to develop a model Behavioral Threat Assessment Team Policy. They did that, which was completed in 2018. The Subcabinet was also mandated to develop a Behavioral Health Services Gap Analysis Report. That report was completed in 2018. There were recommendations, there's a link to both of those reports in your read-ahead materials and the GAP analysis report has some recommendations on page 35 and that was developed by the Department of Health. Every year, MCSS supports the Subcabinet with the development of their annual report. So, we provide a draft report to the Subcabinet for review and approval in the fall, so that it can be submitted in December. And finally, the Subcabinet is responsible for grant distribution. So, there's one grant, the Safe Schools Fund, which has a grant specific to public schools for School Safety Efforts. It also has funding for school resource officers and adequate coverage and both of those are the responsibility of the School Safety Subcabinet.

**[09:35]**

Next slide. So for those of you that haven't joined us before, this is the Maryland Center for School Safety as of today. So, we are 15 members strong. We have a really incredible team. I don't know how many of you had an opportunity to meet everyone on the team, but we really do have a fantastic group of individuals with different experiences and different backgrounds that really come to this challenge that we face in School Safety from different viewpoints and work collaboratively together with each other and with our School Safety partners statewide, to hopefully work towards solutions in several of the issues we have related to School Safety.

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

## School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

February 13, 2023

### 3. Subcabinet Items

#### a. Legislative Update

So, the responsibilities of MCSS, so administratively, we support the School Safety Subcabinet in all of your efforts. We also support the Advisory Boards, so we provide staff support and resources to your work groups so that you can focus on getting your jobs and work done. I'll talk a little bit about our training and certification. I'll talk about our data collection and reporting. I'll also talk about our anonymous reporting system, grant administration, preparedness training, and technical assistance that we provide, as well as our statewide coordination.

And you can find all of this on pages seven through nine and 13 and 14. So, first off, the Safe to Learn Act required that MCSS develop and deliver a model and uniform training for all school resource officers and security employees in the state. So, the original curriculum was developed in 2019. MCSS worked with a cross-section of subject matter experts to put the curriculum together. That curriculum was approved originally in 2019 and delivered to almost 1000 individuals between April of 2019 and the end of August in 2019, so a really incredible effort by the training and certification team at MCSS, and really everyone at MCSS lend a hand in the delivery of that many through sessions throughout that 2019 summer. In 2020, when the schools closed due to the pandemic, MCSS had to figure out a way to deliver training virtually, which we had not done, so all of the training that was developed in 2019 had to be moved online, which we did. And they did a fantastic job of continuing to deliver SRO and School Security Employee Training throughout the pandemic. In 2021, we realized that the training curriculum as developed was not sufficient that there were gaps, and that there were areas that needed to be expanded. So, in late 2021 and in 2022, we updated all of our training and expanded that training, and had that training reapproved in 2022, we started delivering it and as of this year since 2019, we've trained over 600 school resource officers and over 800 school security employees. So, again, just an incredible effort by the training and certification staff, which we could not have done without the help and assistance of many subject matter experts over the last four years.

Next slide. We do various data collection from our local school systems as well as reporting both by the center as well as reporting data that we've collected. So, the key piece of data that we collect is every year we collect the SRO/Adequate Coverage Report. So, this is a report that tells us how many SROs there are in the state, so we know how many individuals we have to train, but it also tells us out of the 1400 plus public schools in the state, how many of those schools have an assigned school resource officer and the number is not as high as you think. So, there are less than 300 schools in the state that have an assigned school resource officer, but there are about 427 because some schools have more than one SRO or an SRO may not be assigned full-time to a school. For school security employees, we have 803 in the

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

## School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

**February 13, 2023**

state right now for this school year. The other report that we collect from our local education agencies, as well as law enforcement partners, is the use of force incidents between a school resource officer and a student, or a school security employee and a student during the school day. So, this report is submitted every year. All of these reports are on our website. The other report is we collect notifications of Critical Life-Threatening Incidents that occur on school grounds during the school day. And I'll talk a little bit more about this when we get to the responsibilities of the Local Education Agencies. And then I mentioned the annual report, so that's a report Where we, or/for Subcabinet drafts and includes all of the good work that our team is doing, as well as the good work of the Subcabinet, the Advisory Board, and the Student Focus Group.

**[16:06]**

Next slide. So MSCC also administers Safe Schools Maryland. So, for any of you who are new to us watching today, Safe Schools Maryland is a statewide anonymous reporting system. So, it allows students, parents, school staff, and community members to report school safety concerns, whether that's about a school or a particular individual. It was established in October 2018. So, it has been going strong since. It supports every public school in the state. So, all 1400 and plus public schools in the state participate in Safe Schools Maryland. We also have approximately 200 private schools that participate. Although anyone who uses the system can submit a tip and we will find contacts, even if they're not in our system for the appropriate school.

Next slide. So, in addition to the grants that are required by the School Safety Subcabinet to administer, including the SRO/Adequate Coverage Grant, and the Safe Schools Fund Grant, public schools are both eligible for, MCSS also administers the Hate Crimes Grant, which is available for public and non-public schools. And then through a memorandum of understanding with the Interagency Commission on Public School Construction or the IAC, we also administer the School Safety Grant Program, as well as the Non-Public School Security Improvement Grant. So, we've been administering both of these for the last couple of fiscal years.

So, we are mandated to ensure coordination, collaboration, and develop best practices and guidance, and documents. And so, we hold monthly conference calls with all the school security, and school resource officers in the state with the school safety coordinators in the state, and with the behavioral health services coordinators in the state and we have a call with our private and non-public special education facilities every month. And then additionally, we have once a month a professional development call where we bring everybody together and we provide some sort of best practice guidance or training to the school safety community. And then additionally, every single year we host the summer conference. We hope all of you will consider attending this year, members of the Subcabinet. This year, it's July 9th and 20th. It's down at Turf Valley in Ellicott City. So, we hope you'll consider

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

## School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

**February 13, 2023**

attending and if you can, we'd love for you to provide any opening comments that you would like at the conference this summer. So, we hope to see you there.

Next slide.

Alan Dunklow: Your mic is not working.

Sylvia Lawson: Yeah, you're muted again.

**[20:25]**

Joseph Dino Pignataro: As you see here, the Local Education Agencies are all the jurisdictions represented here. We have broken down the state into different regions. The western region encompasses Garrett, Allegany, Washington, and Frederick Counties. The central region, Carroll, Howard, and Montgomery. The northern region encompasses Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Harford County, and Cecil County. The upper shore encompasses Anne Arundel County, Kent County, Queen Anne's County, and Caroline Counties. The Southern region is Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties. And the lower shore is Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester Counties.

The Local Education Agency Responsibilities, they're required to Designate a Behavioral Health, Services Coordinator, and a School Safety Coordinator, conduct school safety facility assessments, develop emergency plans, conduct preparedness activities, and conduct after-action reviews. They're required to submit to the Maryland Center for School Safety, a summary of our school safety assessments, the emergency plan performance, emergency plan updates, after-action reports, use of force data, and SRO/Adequate Coverage Data.

Where we're going, the Student Focus Group is evaluating the current program. They're reviewing new applications at this moment, and they're setting goals and objectives for next year and that's reference page three in your handout.

The Advisory Board are addressing the 2022 recommendations, they're guiding the initiatives, and they're providing recommendations and that will be on page four of your reference material.

The School Safety Subcabinet, yourselves, they set up the priorities, administrating new and existing school safety grants, and they're highlighting initiatives happening at the state and local levels.

Ourselves, refining Local Education Agency Guidance, we're expanding our emergency preparedness training, we're evaluating and refining our programs consistently, and we're convening our annual school safety conference.

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

## School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

**February 13, 2023**

2023 Legislative Session, key dates, February 6, was the deadline for Senate Bills to be introduced to guarantee a committee hearing. February 10 was the deadline for House Bill to be introduced to guarantee a committee hearing. March 20th is the crossover date for bills, and April 10 is SINE DIE.

The Budget Hearings for MCSS, February 15th, with MSDE headquarters at the hearings at the House Education Economic Sub-Development Committee. And on February 16th, the Senate Education Business Administration Subcommittee.

House Bill 203, Kim, do you want to come up on this one?

Kate Bryan: Hey, Dino?

Joseph Dino Pignataro. Yes.

Kate Bryan: I am now on Jessica's mic.

Joseph Dino Pignataro: Yeah, I can hear you.

Kate Bryan: So, my entire machine just crashed, so I apologize to everyone but thank Dino for covering for the last couple of minutes. So, let's talk a little bit about some of the bills that we've seen. So, there are quite a few in this session as Dino mentioned. There are a couple of 1000 that have already dropped, but I will go through the ones that I think have a nexus to either the Subcabinet, our office, or school safety generally. So, we'll start with House Bill 203.

So, this is a bill that was originally introduced in 2021, and again in 2022. It requires MCSS to be added to and notified of reportable offenses by law enforcement agencies. The challenge with this particular piece of legislation for us is we currently do not collect personally identifiable information, and this would require us to do that. But it again was submitted in 2021 and 2022 and did not have any movement, so I don't really anticipate much change for this year.

**[25:10]**

House Bill 515, so this is related to Active Shooter Drills. So, there is a portion of the Safe to Learn Act statute, which is 7-1509, which talks about Active Shooter Drills. So, of interest to the Subcabinet, House Bill 515, as it is currently drafted, replaces the Bill language of May which with regarding the requirement for the department to collaborate with the Subcabinet in adopting School Shooter Drill Regulations. Why that's important? There are currently no regulations that require an "Active Shooter Drill". There is a regulation that requires lockdown drills, which is typically what we think of as one of the actions that may be taken during an Active Shooter Drill, but there is no requirement or regulation for timing on Active Shooter Drills. For MCSS, this bill would require us to collect data from Local Education



# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

## School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

February 13, 2023

Agencies. It would require us to work with an Institute of Higher Education on the effectiveness of Active Shooter Drills. It's important to note that that comes with no funding added to it. And it requires the department to consult with MCSS and when I say department, I mean the Department of Education on the development of model content for safe gun storage. And then for the LEAs, except for voluntary drills conducted after hours right for potential law enforcement or first responders to do tactical training. It prohibits loud sounds that simulate gunfire or actors role-playing as shooters or victims. So, it prohibits education agencies from conducting drills during the school day that simulate a real-world event. It requires notification of parents before and after the drill. It requires the identification of individuals that may require mental health resources due to possible trauma suffered from the drill and requires the collection of feedback on the effectiveness and impact of the drills, which then has to be submitted to MCSS. And that is what will inform the study that we are supposed to work with the Institute of Higher Education on. I'll pause just for a minute on these two. Alan, did I miss anything on these first two?

Alan Dunklow: No, you did great.

Kate Bryan: All right, excellent. Next slide. Oh, we have it. So, Senate Bill 799 is a Cyber Safety Guide.

Next slide. So, this would task the Department of Education, the Behavioral Health Administration, MCSS, and doIT (Department of Information Technology) to jointly develop a "Cyber Safety Guide". So, this would be guidance for students, parents, and school staff in the pre-K through 12 setting on safe internet, safe social media usage, and technology usage. It would require the department and MCSS to have this made available on our websites prior to the start of the 24-25 school year.

House Bill 811, so I'm not going to get into a lot of details about this specific one. I'm just going to touch on one piece of Senate Bill 811, which would require MCSS to update school law portions of our SRO training because the bill would require or not allow, let me say it that way, SROs from unilaterally enforcing discipline-related school policies, and it would not allow school administrators or school safety coordinators from directing SROs to enforce discipline in schools.

House Bill 738, so this bill was introduced in 2022 and pretty minor impact to everyone. It basically increases the requirement for the governor's allocation for SROs, and adequate coverage from 10 million to 20 million, beginning in the fiscal year 25. So, currently, the governor is mandated by the law to include 10 million in their annual budget.

**[30:12]**

This one is the most interesting. This is the establishment of an entirely new program or would establish an entirely new program to be administered by our office.

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

## School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

February 13, 2023

So, Senate Bill 677.

Next slide. It requires us to work with the Maryland 911 Board. Just so everyone's aware, the 911 Board is now housed within the Maryland Department of Emergency Management. It requires us to work together to establish a statewide emergency notification program. The most concerning about this is the timeline that's established and included in the bill, and that would require us to procure and implement a single panic button event system, a technology platform to be used in every public school by September of this year. So, not only work to identify what technology or system we might want to attempt to procure, but also procure it, implement it in every school, and have it all done and in place by September. It does provide 4.5 million in the first year and a million every year after that. The bill requires LEAs to share their floor plans, emergency plans, and their geolocation addresses. I will note that MCSS already has all of their emergency plans and geolocation addresses. So, it would just require that they share their floor plans.

So, that one, I'm going to pause just for a moment and ask if there are any specific questions related to any of the pieces of legislation that we went through, or if any of the subcabinet members have a particular piece of legislation, they have a question about or would like more information about.

Lieutenant Colonel Dalaine Brady: This is Lieutenant Colonel Dalaine Brady, I don't have any, thank you.

Sylvia Lawson: Any other Subcabinet members have any questions, for Kate? Not hearing any more Kate, thank you so much for that information. I'd like to thank you and your team. It was very informative, so thank you.

Kate Bryan: You're very welcome.

### **b. Executive Director Evaluation Subcommittee**

Sylvia Lawson: We do have two Subcabinet items. First of all, Mr. Choudhury would like to ask three or four members to volunteer to serve on the MCSS Executive Director evaluation subcommittee. The School Safety Subcommittee serves as the governing board for MCSS, and as such, we need three or four cabinet members to serve on the subcommittee that will work with Director Bryan to develop goals, processes, and an evaluation instrument to use in the evaluation of the MCSS Executive Director. The task is very simple. Make sure that the evaluation happens and develop a template for the evaluation. And at that, I would like to ask for three or four volunteers, please.

Karl Pothier: I'll volunteer.

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

## School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

February 13, 2023

Sylvia Lawson: Thank you so much.

Carol A. Beatty: Dr. Lawson, I will also volunteer.

Sylvia Lawson: Thank you so much, Secretary Beatty, it's good to see you again.

Carol A. Beatty: Good to see you.

Sylvia Lawson: Yes, ma'am. And do we have one more, please?

Lieutenant Colonel Dalaine Brady: This is Lieutenant Colonel Brady, I'm not sure if I can be heard.

Sylvia Lawson: Yes, you can, ma'am.

Lieutenant Colonel Dalaine Brady: Oh, great. State Police will volunteer.

### **c. Future Standing Agenda Items**

Sylvia Lawson: Thank you so much. I appreciate that, thank all three of you very much for serving on the committee. And the second thing is that we are looking for ideas and suggestions for future meetings. We would like to add the future suggestion and ideas as a standing agenda item. And what it will do would basically showcase and highlight local and state school safety programs. It would be a spotlight on local and state safety. And you may know of some things of interest that you could share with us. We would definitely reach out and gather additional information once you have shared your suggestions. It could be anything like initiatives that you are aware of at the local and state level, or if you have ideas following any meeting that we have, you know, we're looking for best practices or items that are carrying. And if you know anything, we would certainly appreciate it if you would let us know. Again, we're looking for best practices on the ground for safety.

[35:33]

#### **4. Closing Items**

##### **a. 2023 Dates**

- i. May 8, 2023
- ii. August 14, 2023
- iii. October 2023 - as needed for Grant approvals
- iv. November 13, 2023

Okay. And with that, our next meeting, it will be held on Monday, May 8th. It will be in a hybrid format. And if there is nothing else, I would like to have a motion to

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

## School Safety Subcabinet Meeting

February 13, 2023

adjourn, please.

### **b. Adjournment**

Lieutenant Colonel Dalaine Brady: This is Lieutenant Colonel Dalaine Brady, I'll make the first motion to adjourn.

Sylvia Lawson: Lieutenant Colonel, thank you so much for making the motion. Is there a second?

Carol A. Beatty: I'll second.

Sylvia Lawson: Oh, thank you, Carol. Second by Secretary Beatty. All in favor? Could I get you to say, Aye?

Lieutenant Colonel Dalaine Brady: Aye.

Carol A. Beatty: Aye.

Sylvia Lawson: Any opposed? And with that, I would like to thank all of you for your presence here today. Certainly, this is definitely a worthwhile endeavor and I do appreciate Kate once again and your team. So, thank you very much and I hope all of you have a great day.