

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
3101 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA

School Safety and Security Committee Meeting

December 17, 2019

MINUTES

Members/Designees: Mr. Michael Pennington, Executive Director
Mr. Derin Myers, Designee for Mr. Ramsey
Ms. Janice Bart, Member (via Skype)
Senator James Brewster, Member (via Skype)
Ms. Nikki Bricker, Member (via Skype)
Representative Donna Bullock, Member (via Skype)
Col. Robert Evanchick, Member
Mr. David Hein, Member (via Skype)
Mr. Mike Hurley, Member (via Skype)
Mr. Mike Kelly, Member (via Skype)
Senator Wayne Langerholc, Member (via Skype)
Representative Jason Ortitay, Member (via Skype)
Dr. Kathleen Reeves, Member (via Skype)
Mr. Joseph Regan, Member (via Skype)
Mr. Jonathan Ross, Member (via Skype)
Mr. Jeffrey Thomas, Designee for Director Padfield (via Skype)
Dr. Helena Tuleya-Payne, Member (via Skype)
Mr. Mike Vereb, Designee for Attorney General Shapiro (via Skype)
Dr. David Volkman, Designee for Secretary Rivera (via Skype)

Staff: Pamela Bennett
Lindsay Busko
Christina Cosgrove-Rooks
Chris Epoca
Kirsten Kenyon
Samantha Koch
Carol Kuntz
Crystal Lauver

Guests: Gwenn Dando, Senator Langerholc (via Skype)
Mike Deery, Senator Hughes (via Skype)
Brad Keen, PA House Appropriations Committee (D) (via Skype)
Vince Kovach, PA Department of Education (PDE)
Jenna McCarthy, Malady & Wooten
Megan McDonough, PA School Boards Association (PSBA)
Christine Seitz, Representative Ortitay (via Skype)
Vicki Wilken, Senator Browne (via Skype)

I. Call to Order and Adoption of Minutes – Designee Derin Myers

- Call to Order
 - Mr. Myers called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and welcomed those present and participating by Skype and phone
 - A quorum of members was established
- Review and adoption of the minutes from the November 20th meeting

Motion to approve the minutes

- Col. Evanchick made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hein
- There was no discussion or public comment
- The minutes were approved by unanimous vote

II. Chairman's Update – Designee Derin Myers

- NASRO Training
 - Brought the equivalent training standards that the Committee reviewed in November before the Commission at their December meeting
 - The Commission reviewed and approved the training standard guidelines, to be made available on the PCCD website
- Third Party Vendor
 - Brought the criteria for school security guard vendors to become approved and posted on PCCD's website before the Commission at their December meeting
 - Commission approved PCCD's authority to review and approve applications
 - Two vendors are nearly approved to provide services
- [HB 49/Act 91](#) Enacted November 27, 2019
 - Extended dates for completion of NASRO training to make it more manageable for school districts, reviewed revised requirements
 - Legislation (PA School Code, Section 1301-1314 (C)) provides full detail on requirements
 - Member raised the question as to whether or not probation officers who are assigned to the schools and are armed are required to comply with the training
 - May not be required, as they are not providing routine security services
 - May depend on what the role of the probation officer is and how they are used at the schools
 - If they are providing that service, the school should identify that and encourage completion of the NASRO training, but how will that be handled?
 - This is the first PCCD has encountered that issue, will look at in more depth and give a recommendation to the Committee
 - The new law also allows for arresting authority for school police officers, reviewed criteria
- Additional Meritorious Grants
 - PCCD staff reported receiving 492 applications at the November meeting
 - Per that discussion, PCCD reached out to the remaining 7 school districts that had not submitted an application
 - Two have expressed interest, reopened so they can submit
 - PCCD will continue reaching out to the remaining schools
 - There will be opportunity at the January meeting to discuss possibly rolling the allotment amount that was not received into the competitive grant allotment

III. Threat Assessment – Carol Kuntz and Samantha Koch

- Since PCCD staff covered the Threat Assessment Materials in depth at the last meeting, did a brief review highlighting changes to the final documents:
 - *Model Procedures and Guidelines* document
 - Updated to include a disclaimer at the top of the acknowledgement page: *"Please note: The inclusion of Workgroup members' names and organizational affiliations serves as recognition of service and does not imply endorsement of this document by any individuals or organizations."*
 - Added three new links and sample documents to the "Tools and Resources: Maintaining Documentation" box on page 28
 - US Department of Education/US Secret Service question guides
 - An interview guide developed by the Kentucky Center for School Safety
 - A Threat Assessment Template developed by the Indiana Department of Education for school entities
 - Appendix D was expanded to include additional documents and tools
 - Section 9 on page 36 now includes new language regarding equity concerns, and increased references to disproportionate discipline and exclusion related to race/ ethnicity, students with disabilities, and other historically marginalized student populations
 - Both the *Model Procedures and Guidelines* and the *Guidance on Communication and Information on Confidentiality* documents now have components addressing the use and retention of data and records
 - *Information for School Staff, Parents and Guardians*
 - Will update the highlighted items when the documents are posted online
 - Nothing else was changed
 - *Information for Students*
 - Concern that some of the language on current events could evoke fear
 - Modified verbiage to be developmentally appropriate
- Website meeting tomorrow
 - Anticipate getting the threat assessment website up and running by next week
 - Will post all of the information and then do a roll-out and marketing campaign

Motion to adopt the Threat Assessment Materials as presented

- Mr. Kelly made the motion to adopt the Threat Assessment Materials as presented, which was seconded by Sen. Brewster
- There was no discussion or public comment
- The motion was approved by unanimous vote

IV. General Updates

- BJA STOP School Violence Grant - *Samantha Koch*
 - PCCD is drafting a competitive funding announcement using federal funding received from the U.S. Department of Justice to identify a technical assistance and training provider to implement the design and implement a statewide K-12 Threat Assessment Technical Assistance and Training Network to support school entities in implementing requirements enacted through Article XIII-E of the PA Public School Code related to establishing threat assessment teams
 - Goal is to have a recommendation of a provider to present to the Committee at the February 26, 2020 meeting
 - Work would start shortly after approval, and would be conducted over a 3-year project period

- Free in-person and online training for school entities would be launched during the upcoming 2020-2021 school year
- Assessor Registry Update – *Carol Kuntz*
 - Total Registered: 161
 - Physical: 115
 - Behavioral Health: 22
 - Both: 12
 - Duplicates: 12* (*includes a test record)
 - Approved Assessors: 93
 - Physical: 72
 - Behavioral Health: 15
 - Both: 6
 - Remaining Registrants: 56
 - Submitted documentation/Need additional information/Under review: 25
 - No documents submitted: 31
 - Duplicates: 12* (*includes a test record)
 - Are reaching out to Intermediate Units to become behavioral health assessors
 - Seeking confirmation and approval of four new applications today, as detailed in the meeting materials packet

V. Member Updates/Comments

- Drones in schools
 - Member raised concerns and issues with drones flying over and/or coming down at school events, stadiums, outdoor educational settings, etc.
 - Member noted that he has taken the all hazards physical criteria and added a piece about school policy and use of drones
 - PSBA has put out some information about policies on drones
 - Some schools have their own drones that they are using, but there also needs to be a policy about drones entering the school's airspace
 - Challenge of tracking the user of a drone flying over the school's property
 - Have been working with police, went door to door in the neighborhood to try to find the source
 - Similar to a no-trespassing sign, having a policy in place aids the police in their ability to do respond to reported incidents

VI. Public Comment – None

VII. Adjournment

- Reviewed upcoming 2020 meeting dates:
 - Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 1 – 3 PM – anticipate a robust conversation about the applications for grant funding
 - Wednesday, February 26, 2020, 1 – 3 PM – will have as close to a final budget number as can get to between the meetings
- Thanked everyone for their time and contribution to today's meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting

- The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Volkman and seconded by Ms. Bart
- The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 10:39 AM